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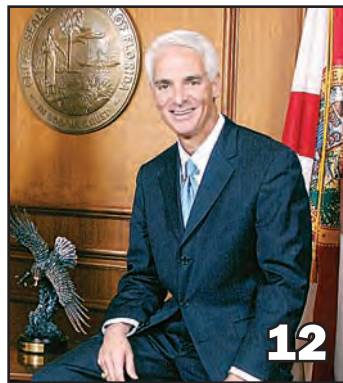
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Emily Brown is a facilitator and board member of Open Arms, the Ferndale-based support group for people living with HIV/AIDS. Brown helps to do marketing for the group, and also works as a community liaison.

1 How did you get involved with Open Arms?

I saw a want ad in Michigan HIV News for a volunteer support group facilitator. Even though I knew a lot about the virus, I lacked the perspective of someone living with HIV. It was an experience I felt I needed to have.

To tell the truth, I was scared out of my mind; I was afraid of falling in love with and losing people who were ill. To the contrary, although I did fall in love, the last five years have been full of hope and laughter. Generally, the people who attend Open Arms are unwilling to let a positive HIV diagnosis stop them from living successful lives. Every week is a challenge and a testament to the healing power of friendship.



Life always goes on; Open Arms empowers people to take it by the reins. It's amazing to witness, and very humbling.

people are better equipped to keep themselves healthy and prevent new infections than those who are isolated.

On a personal level, it's very uplifting to know that people will stop at nothing (including HIV) to accomplish their goals. Over the years, I've seen members complete college degrees, finish athletic competitions, start companies, get new jobs, partner up and/or get married and raise children. Life always goes on; Open Arms empowers people to take it by the reins. It's amazing to witness, and very humbling.

4 How has Open Arms been able to grow since merging with MAC?

With the support of MAC, Open Arms hopes to gain new members and grow our network.

We have plans to build a website that will link from MAC's so that people seeking support can easily find us. MAC also gives us our own space in the building, a phone, a computer and other office supplies so that we can tackle logistical challenges. Helen Hicks, MAC's CEO, has helped us acquire funding for new outreach activities by writing grants.

We feel that Open Arms and MAC have a symbiotic relationship: MAC acquired a fully functioning, historically successful support group, and Open Arms acquired the opportunity to help more newly diagnosed people in the community.

2 What services does the group provide?

Open Arms is a weekly support group for people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Each attendee has an opportunity to speak about his or her experience with HIV/AIDS or related issues, and the group responds.

During the summer, we offer a lecture series in which HIV/AIDS-related experts in the community visit and offer education and advice to our members. We also participate in AIDS Walk Detroit and have a yearly holiday celebration in January.

The value of support group is twofold: participants offer dozens of perspectives on any problem, and they remind us all that we're not alone in whatever we're going through. Living with HIV/AIDS without the benefit of group support is difficult. There are so many choices to make – medications, doctors, lifestyle recommendations – it's nearly impossible to keep up with. Our discussions lead to informed decisions about wellness. There really isn't much funding for psychosocial support for people living with HIV/AIDS in Michigan, and attending Open Arms is essentially free.

3 What do you enjoy about being involved with the group?

Open Arms has inspired me to understand the value of social networking in health and wellness. People who are connected to other

5 How do you think the community benefits from having a group like Open Arms?

From a public health perspective, support groups are part of a philosophy of "prevention for positives," in which those who are infected learn ways to keep themselves healthy and their partners safe from new infections.

On a "big picture" level, the existence of Open Arms sends a signal to the community: This is a place where everyone belongs. A community without a group like Open Arms is a community I don't want to live in. Strong, diverse communities work to address their residents' diverse needs. HIV exists in nearly every community, and support groups are one way that we can address the epidemic and acknowledge those in need without excluding anyone.

Learn more at www.michiganaidcoalition.org.

Between Ourselves is a weekly feature that highlights members of Michigan's LGBT and allied community. To recommend someone for Between Ourselves, e-mail Jessica at jessica@pridesource.com

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Michigan Walks!

Detroit chapter of statewide HIV/AIDS services fundraisers sees 450 attendees, \$28K raised

BY CORNELIUS A. FORTUNE

DETROIT – It was a cold start, but an estimated 450 people came out in support of AIDS Walk Michigan-Detroit on Sept. 25 at Palmer Park, gathering at the Gatliff Pool and walking in support of raising funds for HIV/AIDS services.

During registration, which began at 8:30 a.m., a DJ played some upbeat music; lines formed; people danced; people hustled in time, unified not only by an infectious beat, but an important cause. Others cradled coffee cups in their chilly hands, socialized, or ate the bagels provided for breakfast. Despite the brisk wind, most of the participants, wearing bright yellow shirts donning the AIDS Walk Michigan emblem, had smiles on their faces.

So far, AIDS Walk Michigan's Detroit walk has raised over \$28,000. Funding, noted AIDS Partnership Michigan Development Director Curtis Lipscomb, is always a challenge.

"In metro Detroit and all across the nation, the economy is hurting," Lipscomb said. "AIDS Walk Michigan, which is a statewide effort, raises money to combat that and to add needed revenue for those services. Revenue is shrinking all through government levels. This our way to subsidize the cost of running our programs and services. For some of the sister cities that walk, this is the primary fundraiser."

Other walks, some of which took place Sept. 25-26 and the last of which happens Oct. 2 in Flint, took place in Ann Arbor, Jackson, Bay City, Lansing, Traverse City and Mount Pleasant. They have raised a total of over \$121,600 so far, said APM Executive Director and AIDS Walk Michigan President Barbara Murray, and brought out over 2,000 walkers.

Donations will still be accepted through Nov. 5, and funds will go to local HIV/AIDS organizations, including the HIV/AIDS Resource Center in Ann Arbor, the Lansing Area AIDS Network, the Thomas Judd Care Center in Traverse City and several others.

Lipscomb added that the importance of the walks, along with making up for declining funding, is the show community support for the cause.

"I'm not here as the council president. I am here as a member of the community that is mostly affected by this virus and disease. This is personal to me."

-Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh

"It's even more important for people to walk, and for many of us, the walk is the true advocacy event," he said, "where all community members come out, young and old; people affected – infected – come out to walk and raise awareness."

For Mechelle Ross, a native Detroiter, 2010 marked the seventh anniversary of her brother's death. She has supported AIDS Walk Michigan-Detroit ever since.

"I come out here to support the cause," Ross said. "(My reason) is kind of personal. Some people don't have any insurance and it's hard to know (if they're HIV-positive). They're scared. Some of them don't want to get tested. We need to be knowledgeable about how AIDS is transmitted."

"They shouldn't be treated no different than anybody else."

Sharon Gee, a volunteer helping with registry, has participated in other walks, but this was her first in Detroit.

"I think it's important for us to universally understand the impact of AIDS and what that has to do with our community and our culture," Gee said. "I think uniting together for a common cause makes the universe a little bit smaller and manageable."

Gary Hecklen, an Oak Park resident, made sure the event was a family affair.

"My wife works for one of the nonprofits," Hecklen said. "I did it last year, too. I think people need to be aware of what's going on. This



Above: Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh, center, begins the Detroit chapter of AIDS Walk Michigan on Sept. 25 in Palmer Park. **Below left:** (Left to right) Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion HIV/AIDS Program Director Andrea Roberson, AIDS Partnership Michigan Executive Director Barbara Murray, APM Development Director Curtis Lipscomb, Community Health Awareness Group Executive Director Cindy Calhoun and CHAG Prevention and Finance Director Barbara Jones. BTL photos by Emily Locklear **Below right:** East Lansing City Councilmember Nathan Triplett, his wife Sarah and long-time LGBT ally Julie Powers pause for a pictures as the Lansing chapter of AIDS Walk Michigan steps off. Photo by Todd A. Heywood



is a really good way of bringing awareness to something that people don't really want to talk about. It's good to see everyone out here. Just a little bit more people would be a lot better."

Detroit Deputy Mayor Saul Green spoke on behalf of Mayor Dave Bing.

"Clearly you all are as active or more active than any organization in the United States in fighting this epidemic," Green said. "It's so important. We have to continue to be involved. We have to pull together."

Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh received a huge welcome and made it clear that his own participation in the walk was personal. Pugh is openly gay, and spoke of the disproportionate number of black, gay men with

HIV/AIDS.

"I'm not here as the council president," Pugh said. "I am here as a member of the community that is mostly affected by this virus and disease. This is personal to me. As somebody who has lost family members and too many friends, this is personal."

"I am here to make sure that we send the message that HIV and AIDS is 100-percent preventable. It starts with us. Prevention starts with education and education starts with a simple conversation."

AIDS Walk Michigan is accepting donations through Nov. 5. For more information, visit www.aidswalkmichigan.org.

44 percent of gay, bisexual men with HIV don't know it

CDC study: One in five sexual active gay or bisexual men has virus

BY MIKE STOBBE

ATLANTA (AP) - One in five sexually active gay and bisexual men has the AIDS virus, and nearly half of those don't know they are infected, a federal study of 21 U.S. cities shows.

Experts said the findings are similar to earlier research, but the study released Sept. 23 is the largest to look at gay and bisexual U.S. men at high risk for HIV. More than 8,000 men were tested and interviewed, and 44 percent of those who had the virus didn't know they had it.

Overall, less than half of 1 percent of Americans have the AIDS virus, according to a calculation by the Kaiser Family Foundation, a research and policy organization in Washington, D.C.

But gay and bisexual men continue to be infected at much higher rates, said Jennifer Kates, Kaiser's director of global health and HIV policy.

"We don't have a generalized epidemic in the United States. We have a concentrated epidemic among certain populations," she said.

That's why a new national AIDS strategy, unveiled by the White House in July, is emphasizing

more of a government focus on men who have sex with men and others at the highest risk of getting infected, Kates said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends HIV testing at least once a year for all men who have sex with men and are sexually active, but research indicates more than half don't get tested.

An earlier study in just five cities in 2004-05 found similar results.

The new study, conducted in 2008, included 16 additional cities. Researchers offered free

testing to the men, interviewed them and paid around \$25 for their participation.

Black men were more likely to have HIV, with 28 percent reportedly infected, compared to 18 percent of Hispanic men and 16 percent of white men.

Black men were also least likely to know they were infected – about 60 percent didn't know they had HIV – compared 46 percent of Hispanic men and 26 percent of whites.

CDC report: www.cdc.gov/mmwr

Where is the commitment?

Not enough being done to help individuals obtain HIV/AIDS drugs



BY JEFFREY R. LEWIS

America's commitment to helping tens of thousands of people suffering from HIV/AIDS

obtain access to the medications they need to survive has failed. Instead, the White House, members of Congress, governors and state legislators have created a new life-threatening epidemic: functional malaise.

Why is there a problem when we have AIDS Drug Assistance Programs - a system of federally funded, state-run programs to supply low-income, uninsured individuals with access to lifesaving HIV/AIDS medications? Many states today face massive budget shortfalls and must cut services. At least 14 state ADAP programs have gone so far as to institute patient waiting lists. Nationally, more than 3,337 people living with HIV/AIDS now sit on waiting lists for essential medications. Both Ohio and Utah have taken people out of their programs because of eligibility restrictions.

The White House and Congress may

At least 14 state ADAP programs have gone so far as to institute patient waiting lists. Nationally, more than 3,337 people living with HIV/AIDS now sit on waiting lists for essential medications.

boast about the passage of health care reform legislation, but it fails to protect thousands of Americans suffering from some of the most serious illnesses. This is an affront to the LGBT community, and all Americans in need.

Despite more than \$800 million set aside by the federal government to help those diagnosed with HIV/AIDS obtain crucial medication, thousands of seriously ill and impoverished Americans still go without the drugs that could save their lives. The result? Skyrocketing hospital costs as these patients, who are much sicker for lack of proper treatment, end up in emergency

rooms receiving medical care at the highest possible price.

What's more, for AIDS patients who need a variety of drugs, the effort to obtain free drugs from programs run by the pharmaceutical manufacturers can be overwhelming, due to complicated paperwork processes, different income-eligibility determinations by each manufacturer, lack of a single entry point and other hurdles. In other words, budget crises, combined with bureaucracy and wrapped in a blanket of indifference, have made this problem both severe and life threatening.

To bridge this gap, the Heinz Family Philanthropies, Abbott, Merck, Tibotec Therapeutics and Welvita created a market-based approach that underscores how philanthropy, business and nonprofits can work together to create solutions to vexing health problems.

The one-stop solution created through this partnership works quite simply: It eliminates all enrollment forms, making enrollment automatic for anyone certified on an ADAP waiting list.

Patients on the waiting lists who need access to no-cost Abbott, Merck or Tibotec HIV

medications need only request that their state ADAP program representative contact Welvita. HIV/AIDS meds will be shipped directly to the patient or to a medical provider if so preferred. Program costs are covered by grants provided by all the participants and administered by Welvita. This market-based solution is a national initiative designed to help patients in any state.

Unfortunately, Abbott, Merck and Tibotec are the only three pharmaceutical manufacturers that produce HIV/AIDS medications currently participating in this program. The entry of all the other pharmaceutical manufacturers would be greatly encouraged and welcomed, but the larger question is, why do the other pharmaceutical manufacturers refuse to help?

We are driven by a simple belief that the forces of the marketplace can drive the kind of instrumental change that government cannot or will not accomplish on its own. The need is great and the time for leadership is now!

Jeffrey Lewis is the president of the Heinz Family Philanthropies and can be reached at jlewis@heinzoffice.org.

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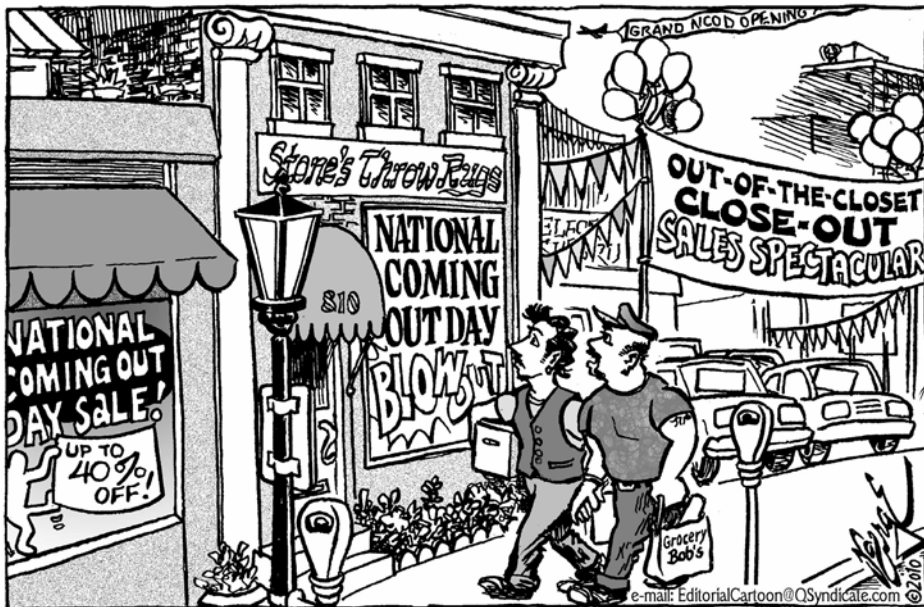
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BTL EDITORIAL

Mike Cox's last stand

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox has done it again.

The passage of Proposal 2 in 2004, which amended the state constitution to define marriage as between one man and one woman, and the subsequent battle Cox led to make sure that said law meant that same-sex couples would receive no rights in our state, was a years-long stab in the hearts of LGBT and allied Michiganders. In an effort to continue to pour salt on the wounds, Cox has taken it upon himself to tout the fact that Michigan's name is listed on the amicus brief filed last week "defending marriage" in the Proposition 8 case currently set to be heard in the 9th District Court of Appeals in December.

Said Cox in a Sept. 27 press release, "Traditional marriage between one man and one woman is a foundational institution of our society, and the federal government and judicial activists should not interfere with the states' protection of marriage. The recent decision to overturn California's marriage amendment threatens marriage laws in Michigan and 44 other states, and it should be reversed."

He went on to point out how "the democratic choice to support traditional marriage" should be "respected and preserved" and gave a laundry list of all the things he has done to ensure that gays cannot receive any rights in their relationships in Michigan.

It's just another action showing that not only does Cox not support or care about Michigan's LGBT citizens, but he goes out of his way to label our state as one unwelcoming of "non-traditional" people and relationships. Out of those 44 states that do not allow same-sex marriages, only 10 felt it necessary to take the time to fight anti-gay Californians' battle since they're already done ruining the lives of LGBT citizens in their own state. Michigan was one of those 10, joining Indiana, Virginia, Louisiana, Alabama, Alaska, Florida, Idaho, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah and Wyoming.

This move comes after word about Cox staff

Out of 44 states that do not allow same-sex marriages, only 10 felt it necessary to take the time to fight anti-gay Californians' battle since they're already done ruining the lives of LGBT citizens in their own state. Michigan was one of them, thanks to Mike Cox.

lawyer Andrew Shirvell penning a blog bashing the University of Michigan's gay student body president spread like wildfire through local and national media. Cox's only response to his employee's borderline harassment of the student? To call Shirvell "unprofessional."

And yet, unlike many other Michiganders, Shirvell still has his job. And despite a slew of messages, Facebook groups and public backlash demanding that Shirvell be fired, Cox's office would offer no comment on the matter, making his reprimand seem like little more than a wag of the finger when what was deserved was a boot out the door.

So pat yourself on the back a little more, Cox, for "defending traditional marriage" and keeping bigots in work in a state with a 13.1-percent unemployment rate. But just remember that plenty of Michigan voters spoke up in the Aug. 3 primaries, too, making it overwhelmingly clear that they don't want you anywhere near their government anymore, let alone running it as the next governor.

Between The Lines urges its readers to continue to keep people like Cox out of our state government. Research your candidates and be sure to vote on Nov. 2.

VIEWPOINT



Putting the T back in LGBT rights

BY TONI CARETTO

I was called "ma'am" and addressed (with my partner) as "ladies" within 24 hours of arriving in Berkeley, Calif., for the Gender Spectrum Family Conference, which took place Sept. 3-6.

"Will you ladies need help with your luggage?" we were asked.

I pay attention to these things because I am a Clinical Psychologist who works with gender-variant children and transgenders of all ages. I also noted these events because they occurred in the Bay Area, the "Gay Mecca," steeped in a tradition of tolerance and progressive politics.

Obviously the history of tolerance and liberal politics in the Bay Area has not created a culture that is any more gender sensitive than metro Detroit. The T in LGBT isn't really any more supported, integrated or embraced in California than it is in Michigan. We have failed as a gay rights movement and our failure is showing via a vis the trans rights issue.

I was not in awe of the proliferation of gender-neutral bathrooms in the Bay Area because they were not evident. Gender Spectrum had to make "Unisex" signs to post on the bathrooms in the conference area because the facility chosen did not have gender-neutral bathrooms. Using data from safe2pee.org and the U.S. census verifies my perception: Though Berkeley has 27 gender neutral bathrooms, it is twice as densely populated as Ann Arbor, which has 32 gender neutral bathrooms.

I was also not in awe of the ease with which families in attendance were able to raise gender-variant children. Parents were hungry for knowledge, full of questions and expressed frustration at the lack of services and support in their communities. In the back of meeting rooms and during lunch, parents were often seen sitting close, talking and sometimes crying. A legacy of progressive politics did not spare parents on the west coast from having the same thoughts and emotions as families in the Midwest.

The fact that even the "Gay Mecca" doesn't "get" trans issues shows me that we are settling for being placated. Trans rights and gay rights are inseparable. A large percentage of gay men and women were gender non-conforming during childhood, and most hate crimes against gays and lesbians are because of their gender expression, not their sexual orientation. We have become more accepted by the majority culture as long

as we act within expected norms.

While in Berkeley, National Public Radio presented a story titled "Becoming Miles: The Journey of Changing Sexes." Here's what some of the 475 comments made by NPR listeners had to say about the topic: "disgusting ... sicko ... a mental illness ... accept God's will ... chro-

mosomes don't lie ... mutilation ... be gay or lesbian." National Public Radio. College-educated, liberal listeners.

What is evident to me in reading the comments is that to many Americans, biology is still used to frame destiny and that when one expresses themselves in a way which contradicts

what is the norm, it is not well tolerated.

We as a movement have failed to help people understand that sex, gender, gender role expression and sexual orientation are distinct aspects of who we are. We have failed to get across the essence of the message of true acceptance of individual differences.

Our failure is perhaps clearest in pseudo-accepting statement "be gay or lesbian," in which we are taken back to a belief that sex of partner determines who we feel ourselves to be and what types of behaviors are then tolerable. It also assumes that to be gay or lesbian is different than being transgender. However, if the ultimate reason for hate crimes against gays and lesbians is because we transgress gender norms, then aren't gay rights issues really trans right issues? Until we ourselves embrace and advocate from this position, we will continue to be placated.

I don't want to be called "ma'am" any more than I want to be asked about my husband. As Cynthia Eller explained in her book "Am I A Woman?": "I have no trouble acknowledging that I have an XX chromosome configuration and the sort of primary and secondary sex characteristics that are classified as female. But "woman" carries a lot more baggage than that. And I'm not allowed to accept the female classification without the baggage."

I can handle the luggage, just don't weigh me down with baggage.

Dr. Toni Caretto is a licensed clinical psychologist specializing in autism and gender issues. She currently resides in Farmington Hills with her partner. To comment on this Viewpoint, e-mail editor@pridesource.com.

S/he said

Bullying, GOProud and Rev. James Stoll

“All faggots must die”

- A comment posted by “Jimmy” on the Joe.My.God blog entry about the failure to repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, traced by its IP address to computers in the Atlanta office of anti-gay Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.), <http://joemygod.blogspot.com>, Sept. 21.



Jim David

“Focus on the Family, a right-wing lobbying group that fronts as a religious organization, pays lip service to the bullying issue, but wants no mention of homosexuality in schools because it might encourage kids to be gay – this, in spite of the fact that the vast majority of bullying is directed at teens who either appear to be gay or are actually out, not those who are fat or wear glasses.”

- Jim David, in his column titled “How Many Teens Have to Die Before Focus on the Family Gives a Damn?,” www.huffingtonpost.com, Sept. 15.

“Did any of you Log Cabin Republicans vote for Obama? Didn’t think so. Chances are, there are many gay Republicans who voted for representatives that served their economic interests and not their equality interests. Many of them likely voted for Republicans who opposed Obama in his push to repeal DADT. If you wanted Obama to be more progressive on gay rights, you should have helped him win more support in Congress and the Senate. It’s an easy equation.”

- Emma Ruby-Sachs, in her column titled “DADT Win Can’t Save Log Cabin Republicans,” www.huffingtonpost.com, Sept. 10.



Rev. James Stoll

“If the revolution we’re in means anything, it means we have the right to be ourselves, without shame or fear.”

- Rev. James Stoll, a Unitarian Universalist (1936-1994), at a 1969 Unitarian conference, quoted in an article titled “Haunted Man of the Cloth and Pioneer of Gay Rights,” about Stoll’s life, one of the first openly gay ministers in America, www.nytimes.com, Sept. 18.

“What we’re seeing is that gay rights are not the wedge issues they used to be. Republicans can’t use this as a wedge issue anymore. I think it’s much more of a permanent shift. A lot of people think it’s a generational issue, and this is just how it’s going to be from now on.”

- Paul Guequierre, Human Rights Campaign spokesman, in an article titled “Will Obama’s Paralysis on Gay Rights Issues Worsen the Enthusiasm Gap in November?,” www.alternet.org, Sept. 9.



“If the current society wants to outlaw discrimination by sex, you have legislatures ... the same is true of discrimination against gays and lesbians. Nobody thought it was directed against sex discrimination. The idea that it is constitutionally forbidden is a modern invention.”

- Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, in a speech at a California law school, about the 14th Amendment’s guarantee of equal protection not applying to sex or sexual orientation discrimination, San Francisco Chronicle www.sfgate.com, Sept. 18.



Parting Glances Then & Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Remembering Jack. (Vividly!)

I met Jack Whitehead about 50 years ago at the Birmingham home of the publisher of “Impresario Magazine,” a popular monthly of the seven arts I was freelancing for.

Jack was early 20s, strikingly handsome, soft spoken, vibrationally gay. (Our respective gaydar locked for milliseconds of mutual size up. No centimeters of follow up occurred).

Jack was recently out of the Army, seeking to channel his energies creatively. His presence was calming. Thoughtful. Reflective. His conversation, determined. He smiled a lot.

“I’ve been told by a Native American service buddy that I’m gifted with two-spirited vision, an eye for seeing the beauty in linear and fluid shapes; that I’ll be involved throughout my life in capturing images. Of sharing my vision call in a lasting way. Wish me luck.”

That initial meeting – memorable because I envied Jack and his so-called “sanctioning,” his “special” calling. (And his stunning looks.) God knows he’ll go places, I mentally noted, shook hands a little too eagerly perhaps, left my now-long-forgotten story copy with “Impresario” publisher Granville Ryan, and went my merry way.

I never saw Jack again. But, over the years, I heard a lot about him. Jack made it. Big time. His good friend and long-distance buddy, artist Jon Strand, talked often – and enthusiastically – to me about Jack. “Our mutual careers took off about the same time,” Jon recalls, with perhaps a bit of justified self-promotion.

“Jack almost made it in movies. He had Wild, Wild West, bronco-busting, cowpoke attitude. Unfortunately, in spite of wonderful camera-loving close-ups, Jack’s voice was, shall I put it kindly – and I love you, Jack, wherever you are – hardly John-Wayne macho.

“It just wasn’t a big deal for Jack. He had an easy-going attitude about life and things. (Movie fans are fickle.) But, perhaps in keeping with the predicted charm that guided him, where one camera failed to shape destiny, another gave him fame and fortune.

“Jack’s mental ‘soul mate,’ friend and grocer heir, former-Detroit Bobby LaRose, suggested that perhaps Jack’s vision quest could find outlet in taking pictures behind a camera. Jack took to Bobby’s suggestion with flair and, if I may pun a bit, sharp focus.

“The service buddy’s prediction proved perceptive. Within five years, Jack’s skill, aesthetic sense, intuitive timing, camera mastery paid off. Soon he was getting in the neighborhood of \$1,500 a shoot. His automotive and fashion design photography were successes, followed by astute real estate investments. He retired reasonably young in Florida,” says Jon.

LaRose, who also Florida-early-retired near Jack, adds a postscript: “For the past nine years, Jack, who was diagnosed with severe kidney problems, was relegated to weekly dialysis. What’s adversity for many became a get-on-with-it challenge for him. He put his vision quest on canvas. Three-hundred canvases. Each 5 feet by 6. Three-hundred!”

“Jack painted tranquil nature. Exuberant animal life. He painted inner moods. He painted visual and artful melodies of color, composition, haunting textures. I’m not an artist. But Jack’s legacy is truly amazing; and, so important, a clear demonstration that one’s gay gifts can, in the long run of life’s final years of challenge and adjustment, be a saving grace. A benediction for others.”

Jack Whitehead died on New Year’s Day 2009. LaRose is estate executor. Fifty Whitehead paintings have been donated as an all-proceeds-to Affirmations LGBT community center fundraiser. Gala Invitational Opening is Friday, Oct. 8, from 7-10 p.m. (Several paintings are also on exhibit in Ferndale stores.) As art openings go, this is a major event of the new fall season!

(Quiet aside: Jack – it was my pleasure to meet you long ago; my pleasure now to ‘see’ you again. We haven’t changed much, have we? Be honest.)

Charles@pridesource.com. Facebook, too.

Through the Kaleidoscope's lens

Ruth Ellis Center fundraiser celebrates voguing, LGBT youth

BY JESSICA CARRERAS

DETROIT – The 103-year-old walls of the historic Scarab Club in Detroit vibrated with club beats and hands clapping in unison Sept. 23 as the Ruth Ellis Center brought voguing out of its drop-in building and into the public eye for their Kaleidoscope fundraiser.

The event was held to raise funds for the center, which provides shelter and services to at-risk, runaway and homeless LGBTQ youth in metro Detroit.

In attendance were many members of the LGBT community, as well as several local politicians and hopefuls, including Detroit City Councilwoman Saunteel Jenkins, state Sen. Buzz Thomas, Oakland County commissioner candidate Mike McGuinness and Southfield City Councilman Kenson Siver.

Head of Friends School of Detroit and former Ruth Ellis Center Interim Executive Director Kevin Howley also attended, making a strong case for supporting the center with monetary contributions. “There are more kids that need to be served. There are more nights that the center needs to be open,” Howley said. “Right now, they’re open two nights a week. It’d be nice to open it a couple more nights a week, but that takes money.”

Proving that donations to the center go to great causes were REC youth, several of which showed off their dance moves to attendees with a voguing demonstration. Their dancing provided a live supplement to the focus of Kaleidoscope, which was the unveiling of the documentary on voguing created by REC youth Rafel Moore, employee Frank Johnson and Diana Nucera of the Allied Media Project, which teaches media skills to groups to promote community building.

The documentary took viewers through the elements of voguing, including hands, duck walk and drop; what voguing is all about; and what it means to youth at the Ruth Ellis Center. Indeed, admitted Moore in the video, “Sometimes I’m walking down the street and I can’t help but start dancing.”

In the process of creating the documentary, Nucera shared, they created their own community. “Not only did we become a little family in creating this video, we learned a lot about the process of investigating, asking critical questions in order to engage people and understanding what voguing is,” Nucera said. “And we were able to tell our story and allow people to accept the fact that this is what this community does, this is how (the youth) communicate with each other and this is a huge part of the Ruth Ellis Center and a huge part of the voguing scene that keeps them together and keeps their heads up every day.”



Top left: Diana Nucera of the Allied Media Project, left, and Ruth Ellis Center youth Rafel Moore were co-directors of the voguing documentary, shown at the Sept. 23 Kaleidoscope event. **Top right:** A REC youth strikes a pose in a voguing demonstration at Kaleidoscope. **Left:** Executive Director Laura Hughes relayed all she had learned in her first year at the Ruth Ellis Center, including all about voguing. BTL photos by Jessica Carreras

“Kaleidoscope is a celebration and a reminder for the young people who come into our drop-in center, who call and who are on Ruth’s House’s waiting list. This is a message that until we live in a world that fully affirms who they are, we will continue to advocate on their behalf. We will provide a safe space. We will provide a home. We will foster a family.”

-Ruth Ellis Center Executive Director Laura Hughes

It was a factor, admitted Executive Director Laura Hughes, that she knew little about when she began running the Ruth Ellis Center just over a year ago.

“When I first saw the young people voguing in the drop-in center, I was like, ‘So is that why I always hear all this noise in my office?’” she joked. “But what I really learned from it – and I think sometimes as adults, we really need to take time to listen – is that our young people have very powerful voices, and voguing is tied to houses and family and extended kinship networks that these young people may otherwise not have.”

Moreover, added Hughes, Kaleidoscope served as a viewer through which center supporters could see all the different dimensions of REC youth: their resilience, their uniqueness and their passions.

“If a kaleidoscope is, indeed, a reflection of a constantly changing pattern of shapes and colors, then the homeless and runaway youth we serve are a prism through which we see our society,” Hughes poetically stated. “And if young people are a prism for the Ruth Ellis Center kaleidoscope, then tonight is a celebration of the (youth) who have all been residents of Ruth’s house; all of them who have taken tremendous steps in their own lives.”

Hughes continued, “Tonight is also a celebration and a reminder ... for the young people who come into our drop-in center for their first meal of the day, the young people who call and the young people who are on Ruth’s House’s waiting list. This is a message that until we live in a world that fully affirms who they are, we will continue to advocate on their behalf. We will provide a safe space. We

will provide a home. We will foster a family.”

And, added REC employee and facilitator of Kaleidoscope Adriel Thornton, voguing is a way that those youth persevere. “This is much more than just dancing for the sake of dancing,” he said after the documentary was shown. “This is an expression of who they are, and ... this is a way that they have found to express themselves, to bond, to create a family.

“Still to this very day, when I think about it, makes me want to cry and really floors me, because I don’t know if I’m as strong as some of these kids.”

To see the full documentary, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJWQRa1bibc.

Preview: UM-Dearborn to celebrate LGBT History Month

The University of Michigan-Dearborn’s Gender and Sexuality Alliance will be hosting a slew of events throughout October celebrating both LGBT History Month and National Coming Out Day, which happens Oct. 11.

The month of events will begin with a screening of the 1984 documentary “The Times of Harvey Milk,” which chronicles the political

career and assassination of San Francisco’s first openly gay elected official. The screening and following discussion will take place at 4 p.m. Oct. 5 in room 1030 of the College of Arts, Science and Letters building.

Then, at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 7, Ferndale Mayor and Oakland County Commission candidate Craig Covey will be speaking about his work and

local LGBT politics. This event will take place in Kochoff Hall A, located in the University Center.

These events are just two of the many coming up from UM-Dearborn’s GSA. All events are free and all are welcome to attend.

Check out the Oct. 7 issue of Between The Lines for a full calendar of LGBTQ History Month and Coming Out Day events happening

at UM-Dearborn and beyond, plus more coverage of some of the LGBT community’s greatest heroes.

For more information on these and other events put on at UM-Dearborn, contact GSA President Benjamin Jenkins at bmjenkin@umd.umich.edu.

Using courts to end discrimination



On Sept. 21, a minority of senators decided that the U.S. military should continue to discriminate against lesbian and gay soldiers. Despite overwhelming public and military support for ending the regressive “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, Senate Democrats failed to get enough votes to stop a Republican filibuster of a military spending bill that included an end to the policy.

At a time when our nation has troops of all backgrounds facing danger around the world, Senate Republicans (and two Democrats), who claim they revere the military, have actually weakened our nation and dishonored the service of many brave women and men. The unconscionable obstructionism of the GOP means that gay and lesbian soldiers who courageously defend this country can still be kicked out of the military because of their sexual orientation.

The inability of the Senate to end the DADT policy points to the critical importance of the judiciary in protecting the rights of minorities.

In the early years of the black civil rights movement, the NAACP recognized that conservative Congresses and presidents would not grant equality, so civil rights leaders challenged discriminatory laws in federal court. These so-called “test cases” helped to dismantle the Jim Crow system brick by brick in the mid-20th century, culminating in the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* desegregation decision in 1954.

In the following years, President Lyndon Johnson and a more progressive Congress established race and gender as protected categories in federal law, confirming the wise decisions reached earlier by the courts.

A similar phenomenon is occurring right now in the movement for LGBT equality.

In recent weeks, federal courts have ruled in favor of gay marriage in California, against the DADT policy in California and against the Defense of Marriage Act in Massachusetts. Several days after the Senate’s failed effort to end DADT, a federal court in Washington State reinstated a lesbian Air Force nurse who was discharged under the policy. Also last week, a state court in Florida ruled in favor of the right of lesbians and gays to adopt children. In each of these cases, judges recognized that there was no legal rationale for treating people differently because of their sexual orientation.

It is likely that some of these cases will end up being considered by the U.S. Supreme Court. In the struggle for equal rights in the 20th century, it took action by the nation’s highest court to end legal discrimination against people based on race or gender. The test case strategy was the only realistic avenue available to civil

Contact President Obama and urge him to use executive action to end DADT: Visit www.whitehouse.gov/contact, or call the White House switchboard at 202-456-1414.

Continue to pressure the Senate to end DADT:

Sen. Carl Levin, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee:

<http://levin.senate.gov/contact/>

Sen. Debbie Stabenow:

<http://stabenow.senate.gov/email.cfm>



rights leaders at a time when the political branches of the government lacked the will and courage to do the right thing. While there are some in our government today who have courage on issues of LGBT equality, many others do not. The entire Republican caucus in the Senate, along with two Democrats, demonstrated political cowardice last week, by casting the deciding votes that blocked debate on the repeal of DADT.

The court decisions, though critical in the struggle for equality, should not even be necessary. All of these cases involve laws that could simply be changed or eliminated by Congress or state legislatures.

On DADT, it is still possible that the Senate will do the right thing. Several of the senators who supported the filibuster against the bill last week have indicated that they are waiting for the completion of the military’s review of the policy in December before they vote to end it. Some of these senators may support ending the policy at that time, though after last week’s fiasco, it’s not something we should count on happening.

If the Senate won’t act, we should call on President Obama to stop enforcing the DADT policy as commander-in-chief; he could also refuse to appeal the judicial rulings against DADT. Absent legislative or executive action, it’ll be up to the courts to end discrimination. Thankfully, it appears that the judicial branch recognizes the need to apply constitutional rights to all Americans. Eventually, true equality in this nation will come, no matter how hard supporters of discrimination try to block it.

Eric Rader teaches political science at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn. His courses focus on American government and state and local government. From 2003-2004, Rader served as an assistant policy advisor in the office of Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm, focusing primarily on education and civil rights policy, including LGBT issues. He currently lives in Ferndale and is proud to be part of Michigan’s LGBT community.

Casting call in Novi

Directors looking for broke LGBTs with personality

Iconic Casting, a Hollywood-based agency, and the producers of VH1 reality series “Rock of Love” and “For the Love of Ray J” will scope out Michigan for a new show, “Competition for Cash.” The open casting call for the bankrupt, in-debt or unemployed starts at 6 p.m. Oct. 8 at MBarGo in Novi’s Fountain Walk.

“We want everyone to come out for the open casting call, no matter how much debt they are in,” said RJ Larese, casting director for Iconic Casting. “Some people might have massive student loans; some people might have been apart of the auto industry and gotten laid off; or some queen might have done some emotional eating and shopping at Twelve Oaks Mall after their boyfriend dumped them.”

Participants must be at least 21 years old – and, Larese stresses, have personality.

“It’s very rare that someone who is dull is part of a reality

show cast,” he said. “If winning this big cash prize means something, show it! This is someone’s big chance to compete and pay off their debt.”

Larese, who’s visiting several cities across the U.S. for “Competition for Cash,” selected his hometown for casting because of its ties to the auto industry, and the economical downturn its undergone in recent years.

“I grew up in Novi, so when it came to casting this specific show, I immediately thought of the Detroit area,” he said. “Everyone I grew up with was related to or had friends in the car industry. When the auto business started going under, everyone was affected.”

For more information on “Competition for Cash” casting, visit www.iconiccasting.com.

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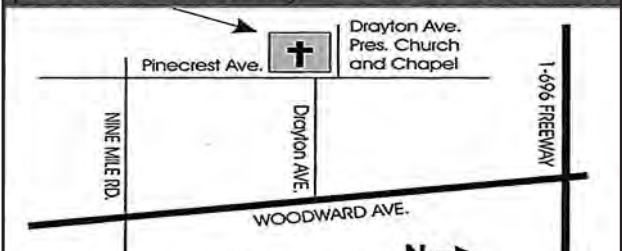
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Ann Coulter

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Perhaps it was Ann Coulter's very public referral to former Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards as a "faggot" that nabbed her an invitation to address a conservative gay group, or maybe it was her recent essay extolling the virtues of Ronald Reagan and his battle against "government endorsement of homosexuality."



Ann Coulter

Whatever the reason, Coulter, everybody's favorite anti-gay fag hag, appeared Sept. 21 at her long-awaited Homocon gig: a fundraiser for GOProud, a group of gay conservatives. Anti-gay right-wingers were aghast that Coulter would speak to such a depraved group and some lamented that she'd gone over to the dark side. But they needn't have worried. Even when talking to a group of homos she has no problem not being very nice to homos.

"Marriage is not a civil right. You're not black," Coulter told the group. "Blacks must be looking at the gays saying, 'Why can't we be oppressed like that?'"

Silly gays, always pretending to have problems bigger than where their next martini is coming from. Oh, and also: There are no black gays.

Ha, ha, ha. Get it? Because gays are all rich and can afford to hire high-profile guest speakers for their big, fat, gay parties in New York City. Silly gays, always pretending to have problems bigger than where their next martini is coming from. Oh, and also: There are no black gays. LOL. WTF.

It was "one of a series of racially insensitive remarks that pervaded her speech," reported Talking Points Memo. This should come as no surprise since Coulter is widely perceived to be a racist bitch (and yes, I realize that "racist bitch" is not a strong enough term, but I'm trying to be politically correct here).

So, wait – is Ann Coulter saying that civil rights only apply to black people? Apparently so. According to TPM, she told "the crowd that the 14th Amendment only applies to African-Americans and that it does not, in fact, apply to women, LGBT people or other minorities."

Kind of makes me wonder if she's actually read the 14th Amendment.

Keep in mind that Coulter was made part of the event to lighten things up with her, um, humor.

"The gay left has done their best to take all the fun out of politics, with their endless list of boycotts and protests. Homocon is going to be our annual effort to counter the 'no fun police' on the left," said GOProud Chairman of the Board Christopher Barron. "I can't think of any conservative more fun to headline our inaugural party than the self-professed 'right-wing Judy Garland,' Ann Coulter."

Really? You can't think of a conservative that's "more fun" than Ann Coulter? Maybe that means there really aren't any "fun" conservatives.

But what do I know? I'm a humorless member of the gay left doing my best to take all the fun out of politics, because of how the gay left doesn't appreciate how hilarious it is that gays can't get married. And don't forget the side-splitting debate around "Don't Ask Don't Tell." And the laffs about hate crimes legislation, or the fact that in many states it's OK to fire someone for being gay, or deny them hospital visitation rights or a place to live. Stop, my sides. No, seriously. Stop.

But hey, at least we're not black, right? Am I right? (Cricket chirping) Guys? What's the matter? Was it something I said?

Sigh. I guess I just don't have Ann Coulter's silver-tongued wit.

Florida court affirms overturning gay adoption ban

Ruling marks end of last prohibition of adoptions by same-sex couples in nation

BY CURT ANDERSON AND KELLI KENNEDY

MIAMI (AP) – Florida will immediately stop enforcing its ban on adoptions by gay people following a decision by a state appeals court that the three-decade-old law is unconstitutional, Gov. Charlie Crist said Sept. 22.

Florida was the only state to ban all gays from adopting.

Crist announced the decision after the 3rd District Court of Appeals upheld a 2008 ruling by a Miami-Dade judge, who found "no rational basis" for the ban when she approved the adoption of two young brothers by Martin Gill and his male partner.

"I'm very pleased with the ruling on behalf of the Gills," Crist told reporters in Tallahassee. "It's a great day for children. Children deserve a loving home."

The appeals court decision is not the final word on the law. Gill and the American Civil Liberties Union, which represented him and his partner, want the state to take the case to the Florida Supreme Court to obtain a final statewide determination on the law.

"If that continues to be their desire, we would support that, and I think given the makeup of the current Supreme Court they would have a very good chance to get a very good ruling," said Crist, a former Republican running for the U.S. Senate as an independent.

Earlier this month, Crist's campaign issued a position paper supporting several gay rights issues he'd once opposed, including adoption rights. The document, however, stopped short of supporting same-sex marriage. Crist supported Florida's constitutional marriage ban when it was enacted, and reiterated his support as recently as last month.

The prohibition of adoption by a same-sex couple was first enacted in 1977



Florida Gov. Charlie Crist: "It's a great day for children."

and is the only law of its kind in the nation, according to court records. Arkansas and Utah ban any unmarried straight or gay couples from adopting or fostering children. Mississippi bans gay couples, but not single gays, from adopting.

"Clearly, Florida's law was the most draconian in the nation until today," said Robert Rosenwald, the lead counsel on the case for the Florida ACLU.

In a 28-page opinion, a three-judge panel of the court noted that gay people are permitted to become foster parents or legal guardians in Florida, yet are the only group not allowed to adopt.

"It is difficult to see any rational basis in utilizing homosexual persons as foster parents or guardians on a temporary or permanent basis, while imposing a blanket prohibition on those same persons," wrote Judge Gerald Cope for the panel. "All other persons are eligible to be considered case-by-case to be adoptive parents."

The ruling came in an appeal of the 2008 decision by the state Department of Children and Families, which had urged the judges to consider evidence of what it said were risk factors among potential gay parents. These factors, according to attorneys for the department, included more sexual activity by children of gay parents

and more incidents of teasing and bullying suffered by children from gay households.

The appeals panel said the state's evidence did not back up those claims and that its "experts' opinions were not valid from a scientific point of view." DCF also now agrees, according to last Wednesday's ruling, "that gay people and heterosexuals make equally good parents."

DCF said in a statement released the same day as the ruling that it was analyzing the decision and would decide ahead of the 30-day deadline whether to appeal. The statement said the agency is trying to find "the balance between the value of a final ruling from the Florida Supreme Court versus the impact on the Gill family."

Gill said he'll take the case as far as he can if the state appeals. The yearlong wait for the decision has been agony, with him worrying "week after week that my kids might be taken away."

Gill has tried to shield the boys, now 6 and 10, by not discussing the ramifications of the case with them and putting blocks on their TV at home. If the state doesn't appeal, Gill said he can't wait to tell them he and his partner are their "forever parents" and they can finally share the same last name. It's been disappointing for the boys to enroll in school with different last names, he said.

"I'm actually going to get their birth certificates with me listed as their father. That will be a thrilling thing for me," Gill told The Associated Press in a telephone call. "I think the birth certificates are going to have a prominent place in our house. That will be the written proof of all of this struggle."

Matthew Staver, an attorney with Virginia-based Liberty Counsel, which supports the ban, said adoption is a privilege, not a right under Florida law. The agency filed a friend-of-the-court brief supporting that position.

Obama heckled at fundraiser – again

HIV, gay rights advocates cite 'broken promises' at N.Y. event

BY MARK S. SMITH

NEW YORK (AP) – President Barack Obama got heckled at a fundraiser on Sept. 22 by protesters pushing for more funding for AIDS programs and quicker action to allow gays to serve openly in the military.

Activists yelled slogans and held signs aloft reading "Obama broken promises KILL." Supporters of the president tried to drown them out with shouts of "O-bam-a! O-bam-a!"

The hecklers were so raucous Obama went off-script several times to address them, insisting he's increased AIDS funding and is working to overturn the military's "Don't

Ask, Don't Tell" policy. He told them to go shout at Republicans, noting that a vote on repealing DADT failed this week in the Senate, with Republicans united in opposition.

"Some of those signs should be going up at the other folks' events, and folks should be hollering at the other folks' event. Because the choice in November could not be clearer," the president said.

Addressing an activist pushing for more funding for global AIDS initiatives, the president said, "We heard your point. And as I said before, we increased AIDS funding. ... The people who will take over if we don't focus on the election, I promise

you, will cut AIDS funding."

The protest took place in the ballroom of New York City's Roosevelt Hotel as Obama raised \$1.4 million at receptions and a dinner for the House and Senate Democratic campaign committees.

Democrats are anticipating potentially heavy losses in midterm elections six weeks away, and Obama tried to rally them.

"The last election was about the changing of the guard," he said. "This election is about guarding the change."

The president was in New York to attend an annual United Nations meeting.

Judge orders lesbian reinstated to Air Force

Senate filibuster of DADT repeal combats with two pro-gay court rulings

BY GENE JOHNSON

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) – A federal judge ruled Sept. 24 that a decorated flight nurse discharged from the Air Force for being gay should be given her job back as soon as possible in the latest legal setback to the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Ronald Leighton came in a closely watched case as a tense debate has been playing out over the policy. Senate Republicans blocked an effort to lift the ban this week, but Leighton is now the second federal judge this month to deem the policy unconstitutional.

Maj. Margaret Witt was suspended in 2004 and subsequently discharged under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy after the Air Force learned she had been in a long-term relationship with a civilian woman. She sued to get her job back.

Leighton hailed her as a "central figure in a long-term, highly charged civil rights movement." Tears streaked down Witt's cheeks and she hugged her parents, her partner and supporters following the ruling.

"Today you have won a victory in that struggle, the depth and duration of which will be determined by other judicial officers and hopefully soon the political branches of government," the judge told her, choking up as he recalled Witt's dramatic testimony about her struggles.

The ruling was the second legal victory this month for opponents of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and it throws the law into further disarray.

Barring an appeal, Witt will now be able to serve despite being openly gay, and a federal judge in California earlier this month ruled the law unconstitutional and is considering whether to immediately halt the ban. While such an injunction would prevent openly gay service members from being discharged going forward, it wouldn't do anything for those who have already been dismissed.

Witt's attorneys, led by the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington, say her case now provides a template for gays who have been previously discharged to seek reinstatement.

Gay rights advocates say that if the government must justify each firing under DADT, it will mean a slow death for the policy – even if an outright repeal isn't endorsed by Congress or the courts.

The 1993 law prohibits the military from asking about the sexual orientation of service members, but allows the discharge of those who acknowledge being gay or are discovered engaging in homosexual activity.

The Justice Department did not immediately comment on the ruling, but James Lobsenz, Witt's attorney, said he expected an appeal.

In 2006, Leighton rejected Witt's claims that the Air Force violated her rights, following precedent that the military's policy on gays is constitutional. An appeals court panel overruled him two years later, holding that in light of a Supreme Court ruling striking down a Texas ban on sodomy, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" intrudes on the rights of gay service members. For the government to discharge gays it must prove that their firings further military goals, the panel said.

Leighton determined after a six-day trial that Witt's discharge advanced no legitimate military interest. To the contrary, her dismissal hurt morale in her unit and weakened the squadron's ability to carry out its mission, he ruled.

"There is no evidence that wounded troops care about the sexual orientation of the flight nurse or medical technician tending to their wounds," Leighton ruled.

Leighton became emotional as he recalled Witt's testimony about the support she has received from her parents since she came out to them on the eve of filing her lawsuit.

"The best thing to come out of all this tumult is still that love and support," he said.

A crowd of spectators remained quiet until the judge left the courtroom, when it erupted in cheers.

"I'm just so thrilled I have the chance to do what I wanted to do all along: that's return to my unit," Witt said.

She also said that she appreciated the judge's recognition of the many gays who continue to quietly serve in the military.

Ten states file anti-gay marriage brief

Document asserts marriage laws lie with state, not federal courts

Ten U.S. states have jointly filed a gay marriage opposition brief to a federal appeals court in California.

The amicus brief sent Sept. 24 to the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals said that the Constitution does not require marriage to include same-sex couples. The 39-page brief also said that states, not federal courts, have final say in whether to allow same-sex marriages.

A federal judge ruled last month that that California's Proposition 8, a voter-passed ban on same-sex marriage, was unconstitutional. Judge Vaughn Walker ruled there was no legitimate state interest in preventing same-sex marriages and that "moral disapproval" alone wasn't sufficient reason to justify banning it.

The case is being appealed.

The Wyoming-based Casper Star-Tribune reported that other states who joined the brief against gay marriage are Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, South Carolina, Utah and Virginia. They argued that same-sex marriage is not a fundamental right.

"If public affirmation of anyone and everyone's personal love and commitment is the single purpose of marriage, a limitless number of rights claims could be set up that evacuate the term marriage of any meaning," the brief said.

The amicus brief was criticized by Jason Marsden, of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, a Denver-based gay-rights organization. He told the newspaper it was "very puzzling" that Wyoming Attorney General Bruce Salzburg joined given that the Wyoming legislature last year defeated a resolution to ban recognition of gay marriages performed in other states.

"I thought it'd be pretty clear that the legislative branch, at least, doesn't want to send this kind of message of lack of acceptance to its gay and lesbian citizens," Marsden said. "But the attorney general appears to have taken another direction."

Becky Vandeberghe, of WyWatch Family Action, a Wyoming-based family-values group that opposes gay marriage, said she was "very pleased" to see that Wyoming joined the brief. WyWatch joined more than 30 other groups in submitting an amicus brief of their own to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals last week against the California decision.

"The California voters spoke, and that should be honored," Vandeberghe said. "We don't believe that judges should be overruling what the will of the people is."

'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' injunction now up to judge

DOJ says legal filing does not detract from Obama's stance on anti-gay military policy

BY JULIE WATSON

SAN DIEGO (AP) – U.S. government lawyers are trying to stop a federal judge from issuing an injunction that would immediately do what President Obama has yet to accomplish so far in his first term: Halt the military's ban on openly gay troops.

Now it is up to U.S. District Court Judge Virginia Phillips to decide if she is willing to do that.

The White House says the legal filing Sept. 23 by the U.S. Department of Justice attorneys in a federal court in Riverside follows government procedure by defending an act of Congress that is being challenged, but it does not detract from the president's efforts to get "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repealed.

"This filing in no way diminishes the president's firm commitment to achieve a legislative repeal of DADT – indeed, it clearly shows why

Congress must act to end this misguided policy," White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs said in a statement e-mailed to The Associated Press.

Phillips declared the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy unconstitutional in her ruling Sept. 9 following a three-week, non-jury trial and said she would issue a nationwide order to stop the ban. She asked both sides for input first.

The Log Cabin Republicans, the gay rights organization that filed the lawsuit to stop the ban's enforcement, wants her to issue an order that would stop the policy from being used to discharge any U.S. military personnel anywhere in the world.

Their attorney, Dan Woods, called the Department of Justice's objections to the possible injunction hypocritical. He said the administration should be seizing the opportunity to let a judge do what politics has not been able to do.

"It's sad and disappointing that the admin-

istration would file such a document days after it urged Congress to repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" Woods said.

In their court filing last Thursday, U.S. Department of Justice attorneys argued the possible move would be "untenable" and that Phillips would be overstepping her bounds by halting a policy under debate in Congress.

Instead, she should limit any injunction to the 19,000 members of the Log Cabin Republicans, which includes current and former military personnel, the lawyers said.

"A court should not compel the executive to implement an immediate cessation of the 17-year-old policy without regard for any effect such an abrupt change might have on the military's operations, particularly at a time when the military is engaged in combat operations and other demanding military activities around the

globe," federal attorneys said in their objection.

The policy was also overruled Sept. 24 in a federal court in Tacoma, Wash., where a lawyer for a decorated flight nurse discharged for being gay was ordered to be reinstated to the Air Force Reserve by U.S. District Judge Ronald Leighton.

The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy prohibits the military from asking about the sexual orientation of service members. Under the 1993 policy, service men and women who acknowledge being gay or are discovered engaging in homosexual activity, even in the privacy of their own homes off base, are subject to discharge.

In her ruling, Phillips said the policy doesn't help military readiness and instead has a "direct and deleterious effect" on the armed services by hurting recruiting during wartime and requiring the discharge of service members with critical skills and training.



20,000 people protested Pope Benedict XVI's state visit to Britain on Sept. 18 in London. The demo was organized by gay leader Peter Tatchell. Photo by Andrew West/British Humanist Association

Gays, others protest pope in London

As many as 20,000 LGBT people and others protested Pope Benedict XVI's state visit to Britain on Sept. 18 in London.

"We got 10 times more people than we expected at the protest," said British gay leader Peter Tatchell, who organized the demonstration. "This is awesome for a small campaign with no office, paid staff or proper funding."

Tatchell called the "Nope Pope" march and rally "the world's biggest protest against any pope for many, many years."

It filled an area stretching from Hyde Park Corner to Piccadilly Circus.

Tatchell said the goal was to "expose the pope's sexist, homophobic and reactionary dogmas."

Gays arrested at Moscow demo

Fresh from his reported two-and-a-half day kidnapping by unidentified government officials, Moscow gay leader Nikolai Alekseev, along with 10 other activists, was arrested in Moscow Sept. 21 for staging an unauthorized demonstration at City Hall against Mayor Yuri Luzhkov's strident homophobia.

The demo, dubbed "Luzhkov Faggot," took place on Luzhkov's 74th birthday and played off a recent court case in which gays unsuccessfully sued him for defamation for having called gays "faggots" ("gomiki") on television.

The protesters were cited and released.

Alekseev has reported that he was abducted by unidentified government agents Sept. 15 at

Moscow's Domodedovo Airport. He said they drove him to a police station two hours away, mocked and insulted him, called him "faggot" and "pederast," probably drugged him via a glass of water and eventually presented him with a paper to sign that said an agreement had been reached to drop his lawsuits at the European Court of Human Rights over Luzhkov's repeated bans of gay Pride parades.

Alekseev said he didn't sign it, "despite persistent 'advice' not to enter into conflict with the authorities."

During the ordeal, someone used Alekseev's mobile phone to text false information to the media, saying that Alekseev was in Belarus, had sought political asylum there and was dropping his European court cases.

Alekseev was set free on the outskirts of the city of Tula early the morning of Sept. 18, made his way to the city center and took a bus to Moscow, he said.

He's planning to sue the airport, its security agents and Swiss International Air Lines because he was in an "international" part of the airport when he was seized and "illegally" forced back into Russian territory.

St. Petersburg queer festival happens despite roadblocks

The Festival of Queer Culture in St. Petersburg, Russia, kicked off Sept. 16 despite apparent pressure from the government to block the events.

Organizers had to find a new venue for the opening and a photo exhibition after the St. Petersburg Union of Artists reportedly broke a

contract for use of its facilities at the last minute.

The union's head reportedly told festival organizers that the city's Committee of Culture had urged that the events be canceled because they promoted "propaganda of homosexuality."

The 10 days of activities included workshops, discussions and events with poets, photographers, musicians, actors and dancers.

German foreign minister gets hitched

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle entered into an official same-sex partnership with Michael Mronz on Sept. 17 in Bonn. Mayor Jürgen Nimptsch conducted the small, private ceremony.

In July, Westerwelle, who also is vice chancellor, presided over the opening ceremonies of Gay Games VIII in Cologne.

UN officials call for decriminalization of gay sex

Top United Nations officials called Sept. 17 for the decriminalization of gay sex and transgender identity worldwide.

"No doubt deeply rooted cultural sensitivities can be aroused when we talk about sexual orientation," said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. "Social attitudes run deep and take time to change. But cultural considerations should not

stand in the way of basic human rights."

Ban's message was delivered in Geneva by U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navanethem Pillay.

In her own remarks, Pillay said there is nowhere in the world where LGBT people live entirely free from discrimination or the threat of harassment or attack.

"But in 78 countries, individuals still face criminal sanctions on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity," she told the event, which was held on the sidelines of the 15th regular session of the U.N. Human Rights Council.

"If we are all entitled to the full range of human rights and to equal protection of the law, then I believe it can never be acceptable to deprive certain individuals of their rights, indeed to impose criminal sanctions on those individuals not because they have inflicted harm on others or pose a threat to the well-being of others but simply for being who they are, for being born with a particular sexual orientation or gender identity," Pillay said.

Activists push for 'third sex' ID cards for Nepalese transgenders

The Global Forum on MSM & HIV has called on Nepal's Home Ministry to issue "third sex" citizenship cards to transgender people in accord with a 2007 Supreme Court decision.

"The legal verdict, which was the outcome of a lawsuit filed by the Blue Diamond Society, obligated the government to issue citizenship cards to transgender people ... recognizing their gender as a 'third sex,' the forum, known as MSMGF, said Sept. 19. "Despite lobbying by activists to move the Home Ministry to deliver on this ruling, transgender and meti individuals in Nepal today still do not have citizenship cards reflecting legal recognition of their gender identity."

MSMGF and openly gay Nepalese MP Sunil Babu Pant say that without the cards, transgender people are denied access to education, jobs, health care, inheritances, passports and foreign travel.

LGBT people staged a protest over the matter in Kathmandu on Sept. 14, resulting in some 60 arrests, apparently because the demonstration occurred too close to government buildings.

Activists later had a meeting with Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, and Pant wrote on Facebook, "He said he would solve the Citizenship ID problem soon, but we need to keep the pressure."

"Governments that deny fundamental rights to their citizens – in this instance, communities that are already marginalized – actively exclude these individuals from civic participation as equal members of society," MSMGF said. "This sends a strong message to the people of Nepal and the broader global community that prejudice supersedes social justice and human dignity."

Founded at the 2006 International AIDS Conference, MSMGF is the only global HIV advocacy network specifically devoted to the needs of men who have sex with men. It is governed by a 20-member committee of internationally recognized advocates and HIV professionals representing each major region of the world.

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A full-length portrait of Adam Levine, the frontman of Maroon 5. He is standing against a plain white background, looking slightly to his left. He has dark hair, a beard, and is wearing a dark denim shirt over a white t-shirt and olive green pants. He has prominent tattoos on both forearms: a tiger on his right and a floral design on his left.

All Over Adam Levine

Maroon 5 frontman on new album, bedroom behavior and being so cool with the queers

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Adam Levine knows a little teasing goes a long way. That's why the Maroon 5 superstud – who's fronted the funky pop-rock band since its Grammy-winning debut, "Songs About Jane," dropped eight years ago – is up for talking gay porn and solving problems in bed. Sex, though, is customary for the group – after all, they named their recently released third album "Hands All Over." And put a bare-naked babe on the cover.

That's just the line Levine, 31, likes to cross, as he tells us. The gay-friendly guy also discussed his hotness eclipsing the band's music, being domineering, his new fashion venture and freaking out uptight Americans.

Your first gay interview was with *The Advocate*, right?

Yes. Was that a gay interview? It's so funny – a "gay interview."

Before that, did you know you had a big gay following?

If you have a big following, a certain percentage of your big following must be gay – which, of course, I embrace with open arms.

What's the significance of the title, "Hands All Over"?

An album title is almost meaningless – the ring of what you're saying and the combination of words is what really matters. Naming an album is a very weird process; it doesn't exactly have to mean anything. It just has to feel good.

This one definitely leaves room for interpretation. It could be sexual, or it could simply mean that you have your hands in every musical genre – rock, country, pop, soul. There's even a disco sound on some of the songs. Is that what you were going for?

Yeah, there's definitely a sound that is ours, and there's definitely a little bit of '70s in what we do sometimes. You could say funk, maybe chic.

"Never Gonna Leave This Bed" left me wondering: Do you solve all your problems in bed?

(Laughs) That is certainly not a bad place to solve your problems! I also liked the double meaning there, because "Never Gonna Leave This Bed" could sound like you're really depressed and you just want to sit and eat Ho Hos and be a slob and also, a place you can escape to with someone you care about.

In the "Misery" video, you seem to be enjoying those beatings a little too much. Is aggression a turn-on for you?

Not really, actually. I mean, aggressive, yes. I like to be in control. I don't want to be dominated or anything like that – definitely not to the extent in the video. Getting the shit beaten out of me is not my thing.

Not even in bed?

In bed? No, no, no. I don't like any kind of real pain in bed. Maybe the illusion of pain.

See Levine, page 18

Photo: Davis Factor



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► **Levine**

Continued from p. 17

Do you feel like your looks overshadow your music?

I definitely think it overshadows our music. It doesn't bother me, but one really doesn't have anything to do with the other. And that's all I can really say.

As flattering as it is to be considered attractive by anybody – which it is, it really is – it doesn't really make me feel good when people judge what we do based on that. It's just really silly because our music became successful on its own merit.

Is the band ever envious of you being ... you?

No, I don't think so. They're not the types who want it.

I've heard that after this album you might disband? And then what? Do gay porn?

I'd have to be in a real low place to do that because, unfortunately, as much as I love the gays, I am not one of them (laughs). But if we stop selling records, who knows? What were we talking about, other than gay porn?

Will the band still be around after this album?

I don't think that the band's going anywhere. I just say that to fuck with people. And I'm sure that they have no desire to go solo. I may do things on my own and experiment with different people and try different things with different artists. I'll always do collaborations, but I don't want to be a solo artist.

If I were ever going to do something, maybe I'd start another band. But I'm not interested in it just being me – "Hey, look! It's me, Adam Levine! And here's my album!" It's super uncool. I'd much rather be in a band. And I think I'm going to be in this one for a long time.

Why are you more comfortable around gay men than most straight guys seem to be?

Because there's a lot of homophobic straight guys. Listen, I think the more secure you are with your sexuality, the more it doesn't matter. I have straight friends and gay friends. I was raised in a place where we were a little ahead of our time with being accepting and tolerant of everybody. L.A.'s a different place to grow up; there's obviously a huge gay community there. It was never weird or taboo.

It's actually really astonishing that homosexuality

is one of the last remaining acceptable prejudices. Like, it's still acceptable to a certain extent for people to be homophobic. And it's really disgusting, because being homophobic is no different than being racist or sexist. For some reason, people still think it's OK to call people a faggot, and it really pisses me off.

I do press with gay and straight magazines; it doesn't make a difference. People need to get real and realize that this needs to stop. But I'm happy about (the overturning of) Prop. 8. That's amazing. I hope it sticks.

You've also said that the U.S. is too uptight about sex. If it weren't, how would you take advantage of that?

I would probably be the same. I'm always inspired to go too far, so I'll probably do that with this album – make some video or something. I enjoy making uptight Americans feel uncomfortable. It's sex! Who cares? People are more obsessed with censoring sex than censoring violence. That makes no sense to me. Same reason I don't understand why marijuana is not legal and cigarettes are.

Do you smoke pot?

I write songs – of course I smoke pot!

How will your fashion line, 222, be different from other celebrity lines?

The difference is that I'm designing a lot of the stuff, and it's going to be good. I'm really passionate about this. This is going to be really special. We have the best cuts, best fabrics, best everything. And it's really simple. We're trying to make this as clean and flawless as possible.

Were you this fashionable when you were a teenager?

No, I was into wearing the dorkiest things I could find. I loved vintage shopping. I was definitely a bit of a rebel at the time because I went to school with a bunch of people that were eventually going to become doctors and lawyers, and I wanted to be a musician. That was a rebellious move in my sheltered private-school world.

On the MTV show "When I Was 17" you said you were gross when you were that age. What would you tell your 17-year-old self now?

I wouldn't change a thing. Part of being a kid is not knowing what the hell you're doing, and the journey of figuring it all out is part of life. And I wouldn't tell myself anything, because I wouldn't want to wind up in any other place.

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KT Tunstall roars back with 'Tiger Suit.' Plus: Maroon 5 stays safe on latest album

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KT Tunstall, 'Tiger Suit'

Suddenly KT Tunstall sees who she wants to be – and it isn't the folk-pop musician circa 2006, when she made a big, gay splash with the girl-power galvanizer "Suddenly I See." After 2007's "Drastic Fantastic" sent her back into oblivion, the Scottish soulstress roars back with feisty flavor and an eagerness to ditch the oversaturated "singer-songwriter" genre. Linda Perry, the superproducer who also helped Pink shift from R&B pin-up to pop-rock badass, aids Tunstall's transit into what she calls "nature techno." The sound switch is evident from the first track, "Ummannaq Song," with its African tribal beat and chanting chorus that picks up like a swooping wind blowing through the desert. Her throaty rasp is wisely framed to fit organic, danceable grooves, especially on "Come On, Get In," which borrows DNA from her biggest hit, "Black Horse and the Cherry Tree." Throughout this (de)tour de force, she sounds more natural than she ever did doing the whole ballad thing, and she mostly dodges them on "Tiger Suit." Songs that could've played as folk waltzes are given a whipping verve here – either striking harder with crunchy guitars ("Difficulty") or sweeping with a momentum-building melody, like with the stunning "Lost," where Tunstall sounds as crisp as Stevie Nicks. Just like the legend she aspires to, Tunstall finally proves she's ready to be one herself. *Grade: B+*



Maroon 5, 'Hands All Over'

Being as hot as frontman Adam Levine can only get you so far – it can't hone a hook or write a pile of potential radio smashes. But as a band, Maroon 5 can, as they repeatedly have on pop hits so catchy they're like big wads of bubblegum that your subconscious stepped in. That's how "Misery," the quintet's first single from their third album, is made, too; with its beyond-infectious chorus and a glossier sheen, it eases them into a fancier direction that goes full-on funky town with its follow-up, "Give a Little More." Bursting with pep and oozing sexiness from Levine's elastic pipes (the line "you make it so hard" could go so many ways), it's as retro gay as the Scissor Sisters. The song's also insanely catchy, but catchy doesn't mean creative – and "Hands All Over," even with producer Robert John "Mutt" Lange (the man behind Shania Twain's hit trove), makes only simple strides to move Maroon 5 past their brand of procedural funky pop. Their most valiant attempt comes during a shameless cross-over collaboration with country music's Lady Antebellum on "Out of Goodbyes," a snoozer that falls right in line with the other forgettable, cliché-riddled love songs on the easy-to-dismiss last half, like "How" and "Just a Feeling." In fact, of all the ballads,

"Never Gonna Leave This Bed" is the only one that doesn't send you to slumber – how's that for ironic? *Grade: C+*

Also Out



Nellie McKay, 'Home Sweet Mobile Home'

The singing chameleon sheds another layer of skin on her fifth album, going cross-culture and beelining for Jamaica. Both "Caribbean Time" and "Unknown Reggae" get their island-vibe on, with McKay revisiting the playfulness that defined her debut. She's also plaintive on the gorgeous "The Portal," political on "No Equality," and packing swagger on the jazzy feel-good "Dispossessed." "I'm feeling like a cool cat with a cabaret hat," she sings. Because, well, she is one.



Brandon Flowers, 'Flamingo'

Imagine Bruce Springsteen and the Killers, which Flowers heads, making a baby – in other words, this solo project. Western flourishes and vague religious themes can't free him enough from his quartet's glam-rock essence, even when he's pitching changeups like "Only the Young" and "Hard Enough," a duet with Jenny Lewis. The rest isn't half bad either, but Flowers is so invested in selling himself, he gets away with more than he should.



John Legend and the Roots, 'Wake Up!'

Give the neo-soul crooner credit for wanting to change the world – and even more for dedicating an entire album to it. By adapting Legend's milky voice to civil rights-era songs, and especially by way of the Roots' hip-hop treatment, the socially conscious sentiments are zapped with new life. The singer clocks some of his best vocal work, especially on the brooding 11-minute opus "I Can't Write Left-Handed," and kills with a Nina Simone cover. Moving stuff, for sure.

Reach Chris Azzopardi at chris@pridesource.com.

Straight talk on gay softball

As a youth, Henry Belanger didn't play on many teams. But in his 20s he realized he loved softball – the camaraderie, the competition, the intricacies of the game.

Now – after six years in Boston's Beantown Softball, the largest gay softball league in New England – it is an integral part of his life. "I wish we could practice three times a week," he says.

It's a typical gay-man-and-gay-sports story. Except Belanger is straight.

His day jobs are associate editor of the Good Men Project and owner of a contracting company. His path there included an all-boys Catholic high school (where he "never heard of anyone being out"), and New College of Florida, a small, liberal institution that was "as opposite to my high school as possible." Belanger lived with a gay housemate and had plenty of gay friends.

But until 2004, when a friend asked if he wanted to play softball, Belanger had no exposure to gay sports.

The friend later mentioned it was a gay team. That was fine; the key for Belanger was that tryouts were not required. In college he'd played on a recreational squad "behind my 60-something philosophy professor," so the chance to be on a team – at his favorite spot, first base, no less – trumped the fact that he'd be in a minority, sexuality-wise. (League rules permit three straight players per team.)

At first, Belanger was reluctant to tell his straight friends that he played gay softball. (His

father was the last to know.) But it didn't take long to get over the fear that they'd think he was actually gay. They saw how much fun he was having. (And when he got married, that settled that.)

Besides, he was adding to his roster of buddies. His teammates became good friends – and because, each season, some players left for new teams while new ones arrived, within a few years Belanger knew nearly everyone in the league. The three diamonds behind Harvard Stadium became like another Boston sports institution: Sam Malone's Cheers bar.

Belanger grew to appreciate gay softball so much that in 2006 he decided his contracting company should sponsor his team. When the squad split in two (some players wanted to move to a higher division), he sponsored both. (One team vetoed his suggestion for a carpentry-related name: The Hammerin' Homos.)

Belanger's firm specializes in high-end finishes. The stereotype of gay men flocking to remodel their homes did not hold – but he made enough through the couple of jobs his sponsorship brought in to break even on the cost.

But making money off gay men was not the reason Belanger sprung for jerseys. He genuinely liked the sport, the league and the team. And the competition.

"The better teams in the gay league would absolutely wipe the floor with the straight teams I've played on and against," Belanger says.

"They can really hit the ball. And they've got crisp infields."

(There is also, he notes, "a lot more grab-ass and crotch-adjustment in straight softball.")

Some players were a bit too competitive for his taste – one team is coached by "a chain-smoking lesbian who takes gay softball really seriously (and) runs a tight...profanity-laced ship" – but overall, Belanger revels in what he sees as the league's proper balance between playing to win and playing to have fun.

Most teams "aren't out to prove their toughness or to pretend like they're playing major league baseball," he wrote in a story for the Good Men Project. "When someone bounces into a fielder's choice with the bases loaded, or runs into an out, they don't give the guy dirty looks. And they don't relegate the guy to the end of the bench."

Belanger calls that "a healthier attitude" than he's seen in straight softball leagues. "When you get all these ex-college players together, it can be really intimidating," he says.

Belanger describes gay softball as "one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I've gotten together with good people – and had fun."

Still, he is not above casting a straight man's eye on his gay sport.

"I loathe Broadway musicals, and theater generally, and my wardrobe consists almost exclusively of jeans and T-shirts," he wrote on the Good Men Project website.



Belanger

"Nonetheless, next weekend I will get together with a few dozen gay men for a few hours of hot, sweaty action. It will probably be in the 90s, but we'll all be wearing leather.

"When I get home at the end of the day, I'll be filthy and so exhausted I'll be unable to perform for my wife. I might even phone a buddy or two and brag about my exploits.

"I am a straight man. A straight man who loves gay softball."

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Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach, gay activist, and author of the "Jocks" series of books on gay male athletes. Visit his website at www.danwoog.com. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.

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TV show takes on local restaurant's monster nachos

Travel Channel's 'Man v. Food' to feature Ann Arbor's Tios

BY SAMANTHA WHITE

Tackling colossal cuisine is the premise for one of the Travel Channel's most successful programs, "Man v. Food." Every week, the show's host, Adam Richman, treks to a different restaurant around the country to see if he's up for the challenge of eating whichever oversized food item that restaurant offers.

One of his next conquests will be right here in Michigan, as Richman takes on the "Mt. Nacheemo" at Tios Southwestern Café, owned by eclectic restaurateurs Tim and Harriet Seaver, at 401 E. Liberty St. in Ann Arbor. The episode airs Oct. 20 as the show's season finale.

"Adam said his favorite food in the world are nachos, and he wanted to do a nacho challenge and he found us," Tim says.

The massive five-pound nacho dish is not on the restaurant's official menu, but is available for those who can handle it. Tios has a wall that serves as a Hall of Fame – or a Hall of Shame – for anyone who's successfully finished the mountain of nachos, or just couldn't conquer it.

The Seavers are veterans in the restaurant business but new to television, and

they were surprised at how long it took to shoot the episode. Still, they enjoyed the taping when Richman and crew visited the restaurant a couple of weeks ago. According to the Seavers, he's everything you see on TV: "He's a really nice guy – completely unpretentious and really excited."

Tim Seaver has been in the restaurant business since 1967. He began Tios in 1985 because he says all Mexican restaurants' food tasted the same and he wanted to make a restaurant that was different.


"When you taste our food, you know it's Tios," he says.

His commitment to creating a unique dining experience has also translated to the ambience of the restaurant, which exudes a comfortable, family-like feel – and, well, for good reason: Two of their children also work with them.

"Tios is our home," Harriet says. "When you own a business, you are here a lot – and we try to make it feel like home."

"Man v. Food" isn't the first time Tios Southwestern Café has received recognition for its food. Tim and Harriet won the "Reader's Pick" award from Current magazine six times and the Ann Arbor News' "Reader's Choice" award five years in a row.

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Powerful season opener at the Network

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

Who we are today is the cumulative result of all of our prior life experiences - the good, the tragic and the mundane. While much of our past is easily discussed with friends and loved ones, each of us has a painful episode we bury deep inside and never share. But what happens when current-day events and hurtful memories collide, and the emotional result threatens to shatter your family?

Such is the situation a Cuban-American immigrant, wife and mother faces in the excellent "Sonia Flew" at Performance Network Theatre in Ann Arbor.

In the months following the tragedy of 9/11, Sonia is preparing a traditional Shabbos dinner to celebrate the arrival of her Jewish father-in-law for the Hanukah and Christmas holidays. What should have been a happy, festive occasion is anything

REVIEW

'Sonia Flew'

Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Thursday-Sunday through Oct. 17. \$22-\$41. 734-663-0681. www.performancenetwork.org

but when her son, Zak, informs his mother that he's decided to quit college and join the Marines to help defend his country. Sonia's subsequent refusal to participate in the dinner and her vitriolic anger towards Zak's announcement stun the family. And her continued - and unexplained - resistance eventually drives everyone out of the house. "I don't know you anymore," her confused husband, Daniel, tells her as he's about to leave with the rest of the family.

And thanks to a past his wife has kept mostly secret, there's no way he could



Milica Govich and Sarab Kamoo in "Sonia Flew" at Performance Network Theatre. Photo: Jude Walton

know that Sonia's seemingly unreasonable position has its roots in Cuba 40 years earlier in the aftermath of Fidel Castro's takeover of that country.

To read the complete review, log on to ... www.EncoreMichigan.com or PrideSource.com

'Play It Again, Sam' – again!

BY JOHN QUINN

As the days trickle down to these treasured few, and patrons of Detroit's entertainment district still have to share parking with die-hard baseball fans, it's easy to slip into nostalgia. Hey! Remember the World Series in '68? No? Oh. So it's fitting that the Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company launches a blast from the comic past as a "period" piece. Woody Allen's 1969 Broadway comedy, "Play It Again, Sam," has not aged well, so this production is a suitably retro romp.

This play represented a turning point in Allen's work. He was still creating a forum for his stand-up routines and "Play It Again, Sam" subjects the audience to a relentless barrage of one-liners - some of them even on topic. However, while past works merely scratch the surface of interactions, "Sam" marks the turning point

REVIEW

'Play It Again, Sam'

Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at 1515 Broadway, 1515 Broadway St., Detroit. Friday-Sunday through Oct. 17. \$18. 313-408-7269. www.magentagiraffe.com

from Allen's previous introspection toward a more mature understanding of romance.

Woody Allen owns the anxiety-ridden Nebbish like Chaplin owned The Little Hobo. Here, Allan Felix (Tommy Simon) is Allen's hapless alter ego. A film critic obsessed with the on-screen persona of Humphrey Bogart, Allan is back in the dating game after his wife walks out. Unhappy he doesn't measure up to his cinema idol, Allan daydreams, summoning the shade of "noir" Bogart to advise him on romantic strategy. He gets more realistic



Jackie Strez, Brian Papandrea and Tommy Simon in Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company's "Play It Again, Sam." Photo: Charles Nowak

help from his married friends, Linda and Dick, who set him up with likely matches and are there to comfort him in his serial failures. Allan finds himself falling in love with Linda and the dissonance between dream and reality is both funny and sad.

To read the complete review, log on to ... www.EncoreMichigan.com or PrideSource.com

Blackbird wrestles with love and marriage

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

Unlike the characters in the Blackbird Theatre's current production of "Women in Love" who beat around the bush and often don't say what they really mean, I won't keep you wondering what I honestly think about the company's season-opening drama: I love the production, but much of the story doesn't interest me in the least. Listening to overly verbose and unhappy men and women kvetch and talk in circles about love, relationships and social traditions - and take two hours to get to the point - is not how I prefer to spend an evening.

But to leave it at that does this thoughtful, finely staged and extremely well-acted production a terrible disservice.

Personally, I like dramas with meat on their bones. That means I prefer stories that challenge theatergoers to examine their own core beliefs about something, or

REVIEW

'Women in Love'

Blackbird Theatre, 325 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. Thursday through Sunday through Oct. 16. Contains nudity. \$15-\$25. 734-332-3848. www.blackbirdtheatre.org

ponder weighty issues in a way they never considered before. (Recent productions of "Doubt," "Copenhagen," "Proof," "A Picasso" and "Take Me Out" are perfect examples of this.) But more importantly, the protagonist must be someone you can identify with - or at the very least, somehow empathize with or root for.

Frankly, most of the characters in "Women in Love" - adapted by Barton Bund from the novel by D.H. Lawrence - are people I avoid like the plague at cocktail parties and other social gatherings. (Too many platitudes; too little substance.



Jamie Weeder and Steven O'Brien in "Women in Love" at the Blackbird Theatre. Photo: Barton Bund

Plus, too much talk; too little action.) But most of the problems I have with the script are, I believe, gender-related.

To read the complete review, log on to ... www.EncoreMichigan.com or PrideSource.com

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EDITOR'S PICK

Calling all LGBT 20-somethings! Get ready for a Young and Fabulous Night Out, from 7-9 p.m. Oct. 7 at Rosie O'Grady's in Ferndale.

Young adults ages 21 and older will be meeting in the restaurant and bar's Emerald Room for drink specials, free pizza and a chance to network and meet some new LGBT and allied friends. Then, stick around at Rosie's new location for drink specials, music and fun all night long and start the weekend early.

RSVPs are requested for this event, but not required, and all LGBT and allied people are welcome to attend. Admission is free.

To learn more, or to learn about other upcoming Young and Fabulous Night Out events, call Affirmations at 248-398-7105, or visit www.goaffirmations.org.

OUTINGS

Thursday, Sept. 30

Gateway Open House, 6 p.m. A chance to get to know more about programs at Gateway Community Services and how they help local youth. Kevin Moody Youth Home, South Waverly Road, Lansing. 517-351-4000. www.gatewaycommunityservices.org

Supreme Court Forum, 6 p.m. A discussion with attorney Jay Kaplan about the importance of the Michigan Supreme Court elections. ACLU of Michigan, 2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit. www.aclumich.org

Financial and Estate Planning Workshop, 6:30 p.m. Discussing such topics as life insurance, estate planning, investments and more for LGBT people. Free. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Friday, Oct. 1

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. "Fun in Girls' Shorts" An eclectic anthology from LGBT film festival Frameline with six of their best lesbian-themed shorts. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

For the Bible Tells Me So, 7:30 p.m. Part of the group's 2010-11 film series. Free. Hosted by Holland is Ready. Park Theater, 248 S. River Ave., Holland. 616-990-5669.

Saturday, Oct. 2

Anger Management Group Workshop, 9 a.m. A 5-week workshop for men only to learn about anger and their relationship with it. Cost: \$30 per session. Hosted by Lansing Association for Human Rights. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1712 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-410-9494. www.lahronline.org

Aerial Fitness Program, 11:30 a.m. A six-week course that will cover stretching, trapeze, aerial hoop, circus rings and more. Cost: \$85. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. www.goaffirmations.org

Tuesday, Oct. 5

The Times of Harvey Milk, 4 p.m. Documentary screening and discussion, as part of LGBTQ History Month. Hosted by the Gender and Sexuality Alliance. College of Arts, Science and Letters, University of Michigan-Dearborn. bmjenkin@umd.umich.edu. <http://gsa.umd.umich.edu>

Euchre Tournament, 7 p.m. Euchre tournament fundraiser to benefit Out Loud Chorus, Washtenaw county's original GLBT chorus. \$10 entry, cash prizes. Sh'vaht Cabaret and Gallery, 325 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-973-6084. outloudchorus@gmail.com. www.olconline.org

Wednesday, Oct. 6

Anger Management Group Workshop, 3

p.m. A 10-week course for men only to learn about anger and their relationship with it. Cost: \$15 per session. Hosted by Lansing Association for Human Rights. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1712 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-410-9494. www.lahronline.org

Thursday, Oct. 7

Discussion with Craig Covey, 6:30 p.m. A talk with the mayor of Ferndale and long-time openly gay politician. Hosted by the Gender and Sexuality Alliance. College of Arts, Science and Letters, University of Michigan-Dearborn. bmjenkin@umd.umich.edu. <http://gsa.umd.umich.edu>

Young and Fabulous Night Out, 7 p.m. A night of fun with other LGBT young adults. Rosie O'Grady's, 279 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. www.goaffirmations.org

Friday, Oct. 8

Jack Whitehead Exhibition, 7 p.m. Selected works by the famous artist, with all proceeds benefiting Affirmations. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. "Girls Kissing" A fast-paced documentary exploring lesbianism from a variety of angles, including how pop culture is changing society's outlook on the subject. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Carnival Weekend, 9 p.m. The annual fetish weekend with ICON Detroit. Opening night held at Menjo's with fetish demos. Main event with performances, auctions, raffles and more. Menjo's Complex, 928 W. McNichols, Detroit. www.icondetroit.net

Saturday, Oct. 9

Anger Management Group Workshop, 9 a.m. A 5-week workshop for men only to learn about anger and their relationship with it. Cost: \$30 per session. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 1712 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-410-9494. www.lahronline.org

Aerial Fitness Program, 11:30 a.m. A six-week course that will cover stretching, trapeze, aerial hoop, circus rings and more. Cost: \$85. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. www.goaffirmations.org

Carnival Weekend, 9 p.m. The annual fetish weekend with ICON Detroit. Opening night held at Menjo's with fetish demos. Main event with performances, auctions, raffles and more. Hayloft Saloon, 8070 Greenfield, Detroit. www.icondetroit.net

MUSIC & MORE

BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

AIDS Walk Michigan "Flint AIDS Walk" One of eight walks to raise funds to help fight HIV/AIDS. UM-Flint University Center, Flint. 12 p.m. Oct. 2. www.aidswalkmichigan.org

Bert's Warehouse "Detroit Erotic Ball" Performances, dancing, art, body painting, food and more. Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door with costume, \$20 without costume. Bert's Warehouse, Eastern Market, Detroit. 9 p.m. Oct. 9. 586-321-2273. www.detroitroticball.com

Edward Jones Financial Services "Golf Fore Breast Cancer" A golf outing benefiting The Pink Fund. Tanglewood Golf Course, 53503 W. 10 Mile Road, South Lyon. 9 a.m. Oct. 9. 734-254-0114. www.edwardjones.com

Michigan Humane Society "Mega March for Animals" A walk to help raise funds for MHS. Pre-registration not required. Hart Plaza, Detroit. 9 a.m. Oct. 3. www.michiganhumane.org

MSU Museum "Dinosaur Dash" A 5K road race to raise funds for the museum's educational programs, plus Museum Mile for youth. MSU Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 10 a.m. Oct. 3. www.museum.msu.edu

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Home Slice" A benefit for MOCAD with strolling supper, silent auction, live DJ and more. Tickets: \$85. Eastern Market Shed 3, Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 8. 313-832-6622. www.mocadetroit.com

Northville Chamber of Commerce "Ghoultide Gathering" A juried show featuring Halloween art. Admission: \$5. Mill Race Village, 215 Griswold, Northville. 9 a.m. Oct. 2. www.downtownnorthville.com

Northville Historical Society "Cemetery Walk" A guided tour around the city's oldest cemetery with talks by volunteers dressed as historical community members. Oakwood Cemetery, Northville. 4 p.m. Oct. 3. 248-348-1845. www.downtownnorthville.com

Riverside Arts Center "Oktoberfest Fundraiser" A fundraiser for the arts center, with food, beer and live country music. Tickets: \$65. Corner Brewery, 720 Norris Street, Ypsilanti. 4 p.m. Oct. 3. 734-480-2787. www.riversidearts.org

St. Joseph Mercy Oakland "Fall Spectacular" A fundraiser for the

hospital, honoring former Detroit Lions head coach Rick Forzano. Dinner and dessert included. Townsend Hotel, 100 Townsend, Birmingham. 6 p.m. Oct. 7. www.sjmercyhealth.org

Urban Institute for Contemporary Art "Brunch & Banter" A brunch with ArtPrize artists where guests can learn about the contemporary art. Urban Institute for Contemporary Art, 41 Sheldon Blvd., Grand Rapids. 1 p.m. Oct. 3. www.uica.org

Young Professional Leadership Council "Detroit Harmonie" A networking event for young professionals. Tickets: \$30. Virgil H. Carr Cultural Arts Center, 7700 Second Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Oct. 9. 248-752-2542. www.detharmonie.com

CLASSICAL

Arab American National Museum "Riad Abdel-Gawad" A performance by the composer and violinist. Tickets: \$10, or \$9 for museum members. Arab American National Museum, 13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. 5:30 p.m. Oct. 7. 313-582-2266. www.arabamericanmuseum.org

Flint Symphony Orchestra "From the Eternal City" Performing works by Rossini, Paganini and Respighi. Tickets: \$8-55. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley, Flint. 8:30 p.m. Oct. 2. 810-238-1350. www.thefim.org

Lansing Symphony Orchestra "Tchaikovsky & Sibelius" Part of the MasterWorks series. Tickets: \$12-45. Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Oct. 1. 517-487-5001. www.lansingsymphony.org

MSU College of Music "Guest Artist Recital" A performance on piano by Sarkis Baitaian. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students. Music Building Auditorium, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Oct. 1. 517-353-9958. www.music.msu.edu

MSU College of Music "MSU-China V Faculty Concert" An evening of vocal performance by faculty from MSU and China. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students. Music Building Auditorium, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 6. 517-353-5340. www.music.msu.edu

MSU College of Music "MSU-China V Student Concert" An evening of arias, duets, and student ensemble performances by students from MSU and China. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students. Music Building Auditorium, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Oct. 8. 517-353-5340. www.music.msu.edu

MSU College of Music "Guest Artist Recital" A performance by the Atlantic Ensemble Chamber Group. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students. Music Building Auditorium, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 3 p.m. Oct. 10. 517-353-5340. www.music.msu.edu

MSU College of Music "Wind Symphony" Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students. Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 30. 517-353-9958. www.music.msu.edu

Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestra "Flute Fantastique" With flutist Eric Lamb. Tickets: \$25 adults, \$20 seniors, \$10 students. Village Theater, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 9. 734-451-2112. www.plymouthsymphony.org

CONCERTS

Detroit Institute of Arts "Friday Night Live" Music by electronic duo ADULT, as a soundtrack to their horror films. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 1. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Michel Camilo's Big Band Caribe" A performance with the jazz and Latin pianist and composer. Tickets: \$19-71. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Oct. 1. 313-576-5111. www.detroitssymphony.com

Kerrytown Concert House "A Toast to Nat King Cole" A concert with the Paul Keller Trio. Tickets: \$15-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 8. 734-769-2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "William Bolcom and Joan Morris" A performance by the internationally renowned husband and wife pianist-soprano duo. Tickets: \$10-35. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Oct. 9, 9 p.m. Oct. 9. 734-769-2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "All About the Trio" Jazz with the Ellen Rowe Trio. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 2 p.m. Oct. 10. 734-769-2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Lansing Symphony Orchestra "Lansing Symphony Big Band" Performing hits by Cole Porter, Count Basie, George Gershwin and more. Tickets: \$15 adults, \$10 students. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, Lansing. 3 p.m. Oct. 10. 517-487-5001. www.lansingsymphony.org

Macomb Center for the Performing Arts "Leann Rimes" A plugged-in acoustic evening, with songs from her newest album, "Lady and Gentlemen." Tickets: \$45-60. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts Gallery, 44757 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. 8 p.m. Oct. 2. 586-286-2222. www.macombcenter.com

Olympia Entertainment "The Men of Soul" With Jeffrey Osborne, Peabo Bryson, Freddie Jackson and Howard Hewett. Tickets: \$29.75-75.75. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Oct. 1. www.ticketmaster.com

The Jazz Network "Billie Holiday Revue" The 10th annual tribute to the legendary jazz singer, with vocalist Sky Covington. Tickets: \$15. Virgil H. Carr Cultural Arts Center, 331 E. Grand River, Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 3. www.artsligae.com

The Magic Bag "Bettie Serveert" A performance by the Vancouver-based rock band. Tickets: \$12. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Sep. 30. 248-544-1991. www.themagicbag.com

The Magic Bag "Savoy Brown" Featuring Kim Simmonds, with special guest Paz Man's Supersession. Tickets: \$20. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Oct. 1. 248-544-1991. www.themagicbag.com

University Musical Society "La Capella Reial de Catalunya" A concert of classic Mexican and Latin music, with Hesperion XXI and Temembe Ensemble Continuo, directed by Jordi Savall. Tickets start at \$35. St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 2250 E. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sep. 30. www.ums.org

University Musical Society "Jordi Svaal" With Mexico's Temembe Ensemble Continuo. Tickets start at \$35. St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 2250 E. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sep. 30. www.ums.org

DANCE

Detroit Opera House "Paul Taylor Dance Company" Presented in collaboration with the University Musical Society. Tickets: \$18-46. Power Center, 121 Fletcher, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 7, 8 p.m. Oct. 8, 8 p.m. Oct. 9. www.motopera.org

FESTIVALS

Handcrafters Shows "Fall Fair" A fair with over 75 artists and craftspeople from around the country. Admission: \$3. Senior Community Center, 303 W. Main, Northville. 9 a.m. Oct. 8, 9 a.m. Oct. 9, 11 a.m. Oct. 10. 734-459-0050. www.handcraftersunlimited.com



EDITOR'S PICK

Country music sweetheart LeAnn Rimes will return to Michigan to perform songs from her newest album, "Lady and Gentlemen," along with old favorites, at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts in Clinton Township at 8 p.m. Oct. 2.

At 13 years old, Rimes took the music world by storm in 1996 with her debut album "Blue," and has since amassed two Grammy Awards, three Academy of Country Music honors and 12 Billboard Awards – all before the age of 25.

Her newest album features reinterpretations of classic country songs by the likes of Waylon Jennings, Kris Kristofferson and Vince Gill. All the songs, noted Rimes, were originally performed by men and will be renewed with a woman's perspective on her latest album.

Tickets to see LeAnn Rimes are \$45-60 and can be purchased at the Macomb Center box office, by calling 586-286-2222, or online at www.macombcenter.com.

Kerrytown Concert House "Edgefest" The annual festival, with a focus on brass performances. Tickets: \$135 Edgepass, \$15-25 individual concerts. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Sep. 29 - Oct. 2. 734-769-2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Northville Chamber of Commerce "Car Tunes Festival" A classic car show, live entertainment, food and an outdoor movie. Downtown, Northville. 12 p.m. Oct. 2. www.downtownnorthville.com

FILM & VIDEO

Ann Arbor District Library "Believe In Me" A film showing and discussion about mental health awareness. Mallets Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower Parkway, Ann Arbor. 2 p.m. Oct. 2. 734-327-4200.

Detroit Waldorf School "Detroit Waldorf School Film Festival" A film festival with the theme of making a difference in the life of a child, a family or a community. Films include "Grown in Detroit," "Play it Again," "Garbage!" and others. Tickets: \$10-15 per day. Detroit Waldorf School, 2555 Burns Ave., Detroit. 6 p.m. Oct. 8, 10 a.m. Oct. 9. 313-822-0300. www.detroitwaldorf.org

Friends of the Penn "Dracula" Part of the Shocktober Thursday Classics series. Tickets: \$3. Penn Theatre, 760 Pennington Ave., Plymouth. 7 p.m. Oct. 7. 734-453-0870. www.penntheatre.com

Michigan Theater "Suspiria" The Italian horror film by Dario Argento. Tickets: \$9 adults, \$7 students, seniors and veterans. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 10 p.m. Oct. 2. www.michtheater.org

Michigan Theater "Answer This!" A sneak preview of the Michigan-made movie. Tickets: \$10, or \$8 for Michigan Theater members. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 8. www.michtheater.org

Michigan Theater "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" Part of the Family-Friendly Film Series. Tickets: \$9 adults, free for kids 12 and under. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 1:30 p.m. Oct. 3. www.michtheater.org

OTHER

Ann Arbor District Library "Making a Floral Art Quilt" A demonstration and lecture with quilting expert E. Brooks Hinerman. Downtown Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Oct. 5. 734-327-4555.

Ann Arbor District Library "Wildlife and Travel Lecture" A discussion about Kenya and Tanzania and the Great Serengeti Migration. Downtown Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Oct. 7. 734-327-4555.

Ann Arbor District Library "Health and Wellness Lecture" A discussion about childbirth choices. Free. Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Drive, Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Oct. 6. 734-327-4200.

National Kidney Foundation "Personal Action Toward Health Class" A free class to help individuals learn how to manage long-term health conditions. Pre-registration required. Royal Oak Township Recreation Department, 21272 Mendota, Ferndale. Sep. 17 - Oct. 22. 734-222-9800. www.nkfm.org

Rochester Writers "Rochester Writers' Conference" A day-long conference for writers with workshops and speakers. Registration: \$99. Oakland University, Rochester. 9 a.m. Oct. 2. www.rochesterwriters.com

United Health Organization "Project Healthy Living" A day of free and low-cost health care services. Registration recommended. Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. 9 a.m. Oct. 8. 313-581-8913. www.projecthealthyliving.net

United Health Organization "Project Healthy Living" A day of free and low-cost health care services. Registration recommended. Westland Mall, 35000 W. Warren Ave., Westland. 10 a.m. Sept. 30, 10 a.m. Oct. 1, 12 p.m. Oct. 2. 313-581-8913. www.projecthealthyliving.net

SHOWS

MotorCity Casino "Paul Rodriguez" A performance by the stand-up comedian. Tickets: \$35-37. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Oct. 1. www.motorcitycasino.com

MotorCity Casino "Nephew Tommy" A stand-up performance by the comedian and regular on the "Steve Harvey Morning Show." Tickets: \$30-37. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Oct. 8. www.motorcitycasino.com

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

84 Charing Cross Road \$12. SR0 Productions at SR0 Theater, 26060 Berg Rd., Southfield. Oct. 1 - 17. 248-796-4645. www.srotheater.org

A Midsummer Night's Dream \$16-\$18. Stagecrafters, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Through Oct. 3. 248-541-6430. www.stagecrafters.org

Crossing Delancey \$15. The Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison St., Dearborn. Through Oct. 3. 313-561-TKTS. www.playersguildofdearborn.org

Doubt \$15, plus \$1 surcharge. Center Stage Jackson at Ruth Day Theatre at Potter Center, Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Rd., Jackson. Through Oct. 3. 517-796-8600. www.centerstagejackson.org

Fortinbras \$12. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. Oct. 1 - 10. 517-482-5700. www.riverwalktheatre.com

Godspell \$24. Grosse Pointe Theatre at Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms. Through Oct. 2. 313-881-4004. www.gpt.org

Godspell \$10-\$22. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 South Park St., Kalamazoo. Sep. 24 - Oct. 10. 269-343-1313. www.kazoocivic.com

Leaving Iowa \$13-\$15. The Farmington Players at The Farmington Players Barn, 32332 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. Oct. 1 - 17. 248-553-2955. www.farmingtonplayers.org

Mindgame \$16. Barefoot Productions, Barefoot Productions Theatre, 240 North Main St., Plymouth. Oct. 8 - 24. 734-560-1493. www.justgobarefoot.com

'night, Mother \$16. PTD Productions at Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Through - Oct. 2. 734-483-7345. www.ptdproductions.com

Starry Night \$33 with dinner; show-only: \$18. Starlight Theatre at Waverly East Cafeterium, 3131 W. Michigan, Lansing. Oct. 1 - 9. Dinner served at 6:30 p.m.; reservations required. 517-243-6040. www.starlightdinnertheatre.com

Tartuffe \$18-\$22. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Parish Theatre, 426 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Oct. 8 - 23. 269-343-1313. www.kazoocivic.com

The Receptionist A staged reading; no charge, donations welcome. Center Stage Jackson at The Bon Ton Room, 3017 Wildwood Ave., Jackson. Oct. 1 - 2. 517-787-6733. www.centerstagejackson.org

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Company \$17. Oakland University Dept. of Music, Theatre and Dance at Varner Studio Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Oct. 7 - 17. 248-370-3013. www.oakland.edu/mtd

In The Blood \$5-\$20. Western Michigan University Dept. of Theatre at Gilmore Theatre Complex's York Arena, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Through Oct. 3. 269-387-3220. www.wmutheatre.com

Take Me Out \$20. The University Theatre at Gilmore Theatre Complex's Williams Theatre, 2200 Auditorium Dr., Kalamazoo. Oct. 7 - 17. 269-387-6222.

The American Clock \$8 - \$12. Michigan State University at Auditorium Arena Theatre, 113 Auditorium, East Lansing. Through Oct. 3. 517-355-3351. www.theatre.msu.edu

PROFESSIONAL THEATER

A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline \$25-\$29. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through Oct. 10. 269-343-2727. www.farmersalleytheatre.com

Among Friends \$25. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Ln., Lansing. Oct. 7 - 31. 517-372-0945. www.stormfieldtheatre.org

An Evening with Jeff Daniels \$12-\$35. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 8 p.m. Oct. 8. 810-237-7333. www.TheWhiting.com

An Evening with Jeff Daniels \$20-\$50. The Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Rd., Clinton Township. 8 p.m. Oct. 9. 586-286-2222. www.macombcenter.com

Beyond Therapy \$20. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. Through Oct. 2. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheater.com

Blue Door \$15-\$24. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Rd., Williamston. Through Oct. 17. 517-655-7469. www.williamstontheatre.org

boom \$15-\$20. Breathe Art Theatre Project at The Furniture Factory, 4126 Third St., Detroit. Oct. 1 - 17. 248-982-4121. www.breathearttheatre.com

Come Dance With Me \$36. The Crowell Opera House, 129 E. Maumee, Adrian. Oct. 1 - 3. 517-264-7469. www.crowell.org

Criminal Hearts \$20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck. Through Oct. 2. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

Damn Yankees \$28. The Encore Musical Theatre, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Oct. 7 - 24. 734-268-6200. http://theencoretheatre.org

Dracula: A Rock Opera Previews Oct. 6-8 (\$24). \$30-\$39. Meadow Brook Theatre, 220 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Oct. 6 - 31. 248-377-3300. www.mbttheatre.com

Evil Dead: The Musical \$30 general admission; \$35 reserved "splatter" seats. Who Wants Cake Theatre at the City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 8 - 31. 1-800-745-3000. www.whowantscaketheatre.com

Fiddler on the Roof \$30.50-\$60.50. Fox Theater, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 6 - 7. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.com

Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy! \$15; "Dark Matter" is free. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

Hay Fever Plays in rotating repertory. Tickets \$20-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Oct. 1 - Dec. 4. 313-577-2972. www.wsushows.com

Keely & Du \$18. UDM Theatre Company at Marygrove College Theatre, 8425 W. McNichols Rd., Detroit. Oct. 1 - 10. 313-993-3270. www.theatre.udmercy.edu

Last of the Red Hot Lovers \$28-\$30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through Oct. 16. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

Play It Again, Sam \$18. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at 1515 Broadway, 1515 Broadway St., Detroit. Through Oct. 17. 313-408-7269. www.magentagiraffe.com

Sonia Flew A co-production with The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company. \$22-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Oct. 17. 734-663-0681. www.performance-network.org

Sundays at Go Comedy! \$7 for the evening. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. Through Oct. 31. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

Susurrus Times vary; groups of four admitted every 15 minutes. Recommended for ages 16+; contains adult themes. \$30. University Musical Society, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor. Through Oct. 3. 734-764-2538. www.ums.org



Have you ever been caught between two worlds? Isabelle "Izzy" Grossman has. In the Players Guild of Dearborn's production of Susan Sandler's "Crossing Delancey," Izzy tries to find love and success her way, while still holding on to the values and ideals of a past generation.

Izzy works hard at her West Side bookstore – to catch the eye of a self-absorbed novelist, Tyler Moss. Her situation will be familiar to those who have experienced unrequited love and will beg the question: Can she catch his eye?

Performances are at 8 p.m. Oct. 1-2 and 2:30 p.m. Oct. 3. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$13 for students. For reservations or more information, call the ticket line at 313-561-TKTS. The Players Guild of Dearborn is located at 21730 Madison, Dearborn.

The God of Isaac Previews Oct. 6, 7 & 9 \$32-\$41, discounts for seniors and students. Jewish Ensemble Theatre, Aaron DeRoy Theatre, 6600 West Maple Rd., West Bloomfield. Oct. 6 - 31. 248-788-2900. www.jetttheatre.org

The Great Game Show Fiasco \$19; \$36 for Oct. 23 performance (includes buffet dinner served at 6:30 p.m.). Van Buren Street Theatre, 701 N Van Buren St., Bay City. Through Oct. 30. 989-893-9399. www.vanburenstreettheatre.com

The Judy Show \$15. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Oct. 7. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheater.com

The Last Great British Sex Farce Ever! \$14-\$16. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Rd., Eastpointe. Through Oct. 9. 586-771-6333. www.broadwayonstage.com

The Merchants of Bollywood \$25-\$65. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison St., Detroit. Oct. 7 - 9. 1-800-745-3000. www.musicall.org

Thursdays at Go Comedy! \$10 for the evening. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

Wednesdays at Go Comedy! \$5 for the evening. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

West Side Story \$39-\$89 (includes parking and facility fees). Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Sep. 30 - Oct. 16. 1-800-982-2787. www.broadwayindetroit.com

Women in Love \$15-\$25. Blackbird Theatre, 325 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. Through Oct. 16. 734-332-3848. www.blackbirdtheatre.org

AUDITIONS

MOSCOW BALLET - auditions for local dance students to participate in the "Great Russian Nutcracker" in December, Oct. 9, 586-781-0707; WARREN CIVIC THEATRE - auditions for "it's a Wonderful Life," week of Oct. 11, 586-268-8400.

Charles H. Wright Museum "Portraits of Life and Landscapes" The Art of Frank Kelley Jr. Charles H. Wright Museum, 315 E. Warren Ave., Detroit. Aug. 27 - Dec. 12. 313-494-5800. www.charleshwrightmuseum.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Beauty amid Thunder" The past two centuries of Chinese art, in the new Joy Light Gallery of Asian Art. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Aug. 28 - Oct. 17. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Wondrous ink" Selections from the Richard Fabian Collection, held in the new Joy Light Gallery of Asian Art. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Aug. 28 - Dec. 5. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Strong Women, Beautiful Men" Japanese Portrait Prints from the Toledo Museum of Art, held in the new Joy Light Gallery of Asian Art. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Aug. 28 - Oct. 31. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Strong Women, Beautiful Men" Japanese Portrait Prints from the Toledo Museum of Art, held in the new Joy Light Gallery of Asian Art. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Aug. 28 - Oct. 31. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "In Your Dreams" 500 years of imaginary prints from Europe and America. Museum admission: \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 youth. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sept. 8 - Jan. 2. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Creative Bead Attitude" An exhibition of beadwork by members of the Great Lakes Beadworkers Guild. Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Sept. 13 - Oct. 15. 586-945-4620. www.downriverarts.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "The Soul of New Orleans" Photographs of music and life by Joe Crachiola. Wyandotte Arts Center, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Sept. 17 - Oct. 8. www.downriverarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Unbroken Ties" Dialogues in Cuban Art, presenting works of artists who have remained in Cuba alongside works by those who have left the country. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. Sept. 9 - Dec. 7. 810-234-1695. www.flintarts.org

Gallery Project "Politics of Fear" A multimedia exhibit of works by 35 artists visualizing fear in American society. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Sept. 8 - Oct. 17. t734-997-7012. www.thegalleryproject.com

Gallery U "Beyond Design" A mixed media group show. Gallery U, 310 Fourth Street, Royal Oak. 5 p.m. Sept. 30. 248-399-7322. http://gallery-u.blogspot.com

Holocaust Memorial Center "Synagogues in Germany: A Virtual Reconstruction" Computer aided design reconstructions of 14 synagogues destroyed during Kristallnacht. Holocaust Memorial Center, 28123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Aug. 29 - Nov. 29. 248-553-2400. www.holocaustcenter.org

Jewish Community Center of Metro Detroit "The Green Show" Sculptures, jewelry and other art created from recycled materials. Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. Sept. 2 - Oct. 14. 248-432-5579. www.jccdet.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Beauty amid Thunder" The past two centuries of Chinese art, in the new Joy Light Gallery of Asian Art. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Aug. 28 - Oct. 17. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Wondrous ink" Selections from the Richard Fabian Collection, held in the new Joy Light Gallery of Asian Art. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Aug. 28 - Dec. 5. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Strong Women, Beautiful Men" Japanese Portrait Prints from the Toledo Museum of Art, held in the new Joy Light Gallery of Asian Art. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Aug. 28 - Oct. 31. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Strong Women, Beautiful Men" Japanese Portrait Prints from the Toledo Museum of Art, held in the new Joy Light Gallery of Asian Art. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Aug. 28 - Oct. 31. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

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From Stork to Finish

Rear View

DEAR JODY



Got problems? Send letters to: "Dear Jody," C/O Between The Lines, 11920 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48150. E-mail her at DearJodyValley@hotmail.com

Parents blame me for brother's death

Q. My brother "Adam" was murdered five years ago. He was killed in the South, not here in Michigan; a year after his death I left and came here. My brother was two years older than I, and we were very close. Still, to this day, my parents blame me for Adam's death.

The reason they blame me is because my brother was asked – by my parents – to go and get me at a party. I was drunk, so I called home; that was a promise I made with my parents – if I were ever drunk, I wouldn't drive. I had never before needed a ride home – or at least didn't call – but this one Saturday I got really smashed and I called for a ride home. That was my fault; no one forced all that booze down my throat. I take complete responsibility for myself in this.

On the way to get me, my brother was killed by an on-coming vehicle crossing over into Adam's lane. That driver was drunk. Adam didn't die immediately, but three days later he died in the hospital.

Since my brother's death, I've been treated like a killer by my parents; that's why I left the area and came to Michigan. (I had a friend here, so it seemed as good a place as any.) I feel like I not only lost my brother, but I lost my parents as well. It has been horribly hard to keep going, but thanks to my friends here I'm hanging on. I'm not sure how the rest of my family sees this, but I do have one aunt, at least, who is supportive of me, but she lives by my parents. So it is not like she lives near me, but I do get phone calls from her.

The biggest problem I have around all this is that I can't forgive myself. I agree with my parents: I am responsible. If I hadn't gotten drunk, if I hadn't called my parents, if my brother hadn't come for me, Adam would be alive today. I set the events in motion. Now I wish I had never called, drove home on my own; and if anyone were to get killed, it should have been me.

I don't have any questions for you, Jody, but I did want to warn others about drinking – and what it could lead to. And, I guess, I wanted to just get this off my chest.

Tossed Out

A. Life is full of "what ifs," and if you engage in all those "what ifs" – especially when things go wrong – it feels crazy and horrible, as it's making you right now. All of us are setting off chains of events that always lead somewhere: to good things, bad things and things that are pretty inconsequential – or at least they appear that way. We may know how some of them end, but not all. That is the way our lives work, and we can't know how things are going to work out at any particular time.

You need to stop beating yourself up about this. Would your brother want you to suffer like this and be unforgiving of yourself? I would guess not. I'm sorry your parents have placed the blame on you. Seems to me if they needed to place blame somewhere, it would be directed at the drunk person – the person who hit your brother's car. Maybe your parents feel guilty for sending your brother out instead of going to pick you up themselves, as they had originally agreed; but they can't handle the guilty feelings, so they transfer them onto you.

In any case, you got drunk and did the right thing by calling your parents – as your parent wished. Your brother ended up in the wrong place at the wrong time. That could have happened at any other time and at any other place. It's just life and how it works. As the bumper sticker states: "Shit happens."

I strongly recommend getting some counseling for your tremendous loss and your guilt issues. Good luck. I care.

Note from Jody: Recently I developed a "Dear Jody Valley" page on Facebook. I'd love to hear from you. Visit Facebook/Dear Jody Valley. I have "Discussion" groups going and am looking forward to adding others (feel free to add one yourself), so make sure and check out the discussion topics. I'm also in the process of writing a gay novel and will have a discussion group for other writers interested in connecting. Looking forward to seeing you on Facebook!

Jody Valley spent 12 years as a clinical social worker. She worked with the LGBT community both as a counselor and a workshop leader in the areas of coming out, self-esteem and relationship issues. The "Dear Jody" column appears weekly. Reach Jody at DearJodyValley@hotmail.com. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

Here's how to play BTL's Fake Ad Contest

1. Search this issue of *Between The Lines* for the one ad that is the fake ad. Here's a clue: the fake ad will include the line "between the sheets" somewhere within the text of the ad.
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Reconsider your ambitions, Taurus!

Mercury in Virgo opposing Jupiter and Pisces helps to Bring In Terrific Critically Helpful Insights Needing Grounding. Check that acronym and monitor "your own" attitude. Mars is aggravating the situation, and Neptune offers little help. Double-check your motives and think ahead before speaking!

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Using sex or credit cards as a release valve for anxiety and stress does nothing about the causes, only staving off and building up the problem. Confide in a good friend or a counselor to get to the root of your problems.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Efforts to amuse your partner are likely to backfire. Focus your wit on analyzing problems, not necessarily solving them. Also, reconsider your ambitions. You won't like your friends' suggestions, but use them as a springboard to entirely new ideas.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Little satisfaction at home means lots of room for improvement. Do what you can as a step toward further amelioration later. New opportunities at work are there but well hidden. Trust your intuition to help find them.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): Your mouth may be getting ahead of you, and well-intentioned jest can come off pretty hard and mean. Be careful! There's a time and place for talking nasty and rough. Find it and you can be very popular!

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Face problems in domestic finances, but don't push for solutions now. A loan is not the answer. Pooling resources with your partner or a close friend may be, but approach that very slowly and carefully.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Virgos are supposed to be shy and sensible. Well, maybe next week. Remember to think before speaking. Be careful not to reveal confidences or otherwise humiliate yourself and your friends. Look for quiet ways to be helpful. Just being quiet may be enough.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Mental stress can make you physically ill, but if that happens take it as a warning, a blessing in disguise.

Rather than worry over money, focus on what's important. A playful, creative approach will point to new solutions.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Watch out for the line between confidence and arrogance. If you don't see it, your friends will be quick to tell you. Thank them for it! Look at how dreams and ideals from your childhood still influence your view of the future.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Whatever you hate about your career or your boss will get out, so spill it to a friend you can trust. Finding inspiration and freedom at home can strengthen your ambitions. Poetry and music can help.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Although your critical acuity is razor sharp, people will accept your insights more if they are phrased gently. What good is being right if it only alienates people? There's more than one way to be right. Pay attention to others' opinions.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Financial changes can be rough, but don't get swept up in the drama! Mediation can hone your instincts, bringing out your best. Move quickly if you must, but take at least enough time to look ahead.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Grand issues of politics, religion or philosophy can antagonize your partnership. How much of that really matters? Make a quiet escape together and focus on more personal issues, or help out together at a charity event.

Jack Fertig, a professional astrologer since 1977, is available for personal and business consultations in person in San Francisco, or online everywhere. He can be reached at 415-864-8302, through his website at www.starjack.com, and by e-mail at QScopes@qsyndicate.com.

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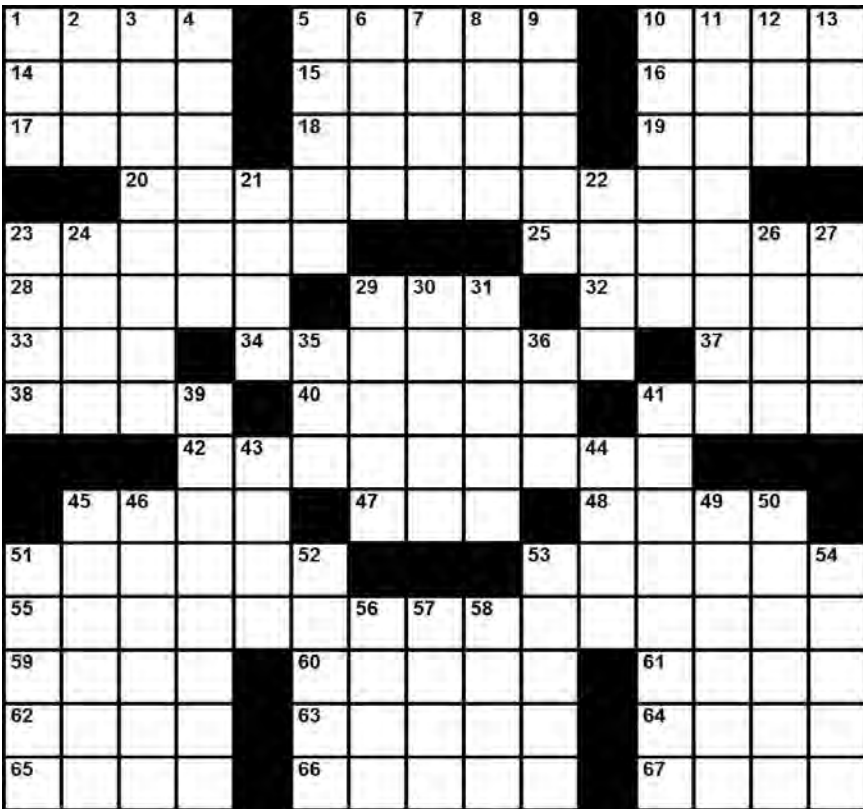
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Solution on 33

Q U I Z Choosy About a Jacuzzi

Across

- 1 Christmas threesome
- 5 Opening for guys that cruise
- 10 Nemesis of Tinkerbell
- 14 One side of Ed Wood
- 15 Honolulu hello
- 16 Gallup specialty
- 17 "Hairspray" composer Shaiman
- 18 Give in kind
- 19 The 411
- 20 Start of a Jacuzzi ad
- 23 Sees eye to eye
- 25 TV host Steve
- 28 "The Cat in the Hat" author
- 29 Pampering, briefly
- 32 Where fruits hang around
- 33 Abe Lincoln's boy
- 34 Summer tops
- 37 "Breakfast on Pluto" actor Stephen
- 38 General vicinity

Down

- 41 Catch sight of
- 42 More of the ad
- 45 Hacienda room
- 47 Anka's "___ Beso"
- 48 Brief moments of love-making?
- 51 Hard-hitting Giant of legend
- 53 Put bubbles in
- 55 End of the ad
- 59 "Trick"'s Spelling
- 60 Like Diana
- 61 Ass attachment?
- 62 Julia Roberts' Brockovich
- 63 Edwin of Reagan's Cabinet
- 64 De Matteo of "Desperate Housewives"
- 65 Performed like Rufus Wainwright
- 66 Kind of statesman
- 67 Put into piles

Down

- 1 "The Wizard of Oz" studio
- 2 Chicken-king link
- 3 Autobiographer of Alice
- 4 Measure of manhood
- 5 Long-eared leapers
- 6 Position at sea
- 7 Lovers that you can't get over
- 8 Rupert Everett's fellow
- 9 "Frida" star Salma
- 10 "Kiss of the ___ Woman"
- 11 McKellen movie "Gods and ___"
- 12 Subordinate Claus
- 13 "Can't Get It Out of My Head" band
- 21 Silence for Saint-Saens
- 22 Experts in CPR
- 23 Hammett hound
- 24 First, second or reverse
- 26 Hold onto
- 27 Key opening

- 29 Main idea
- 30 "Days of Our ___"
- 31 Belief summary
- 35 Direction away from NNE
- 36 Bi plus one
- 39 Letting
- 41 Green stones
- 43 Solemn vow
- 44 Objectifies, sexually
- 45 Frida Kahlo's woman
- 46 Astronaut Buzz
- 49 Flashy wheels
- 50 Oglers in a gay bar, perhaps
- 51 Significant others
- 52 "The Velvet Fog"
- 53 One who graced the TV screen?
- 54 Come as far as
- 56 French Christmas
- 57 Watched intently
- 58 Make less difficult to bear

Pet of the Week:



Meat Howie! As you can see, the ears on this year-old German Shepherd mix haven't yet decided whether they want to stand up or sit down yet, but he's a looker just the same! Sweet and playful, Howie is waiting to meet you at the Michigan Humane Society's Berman Center for Animal Care. Visit or call (734) 721-7300 and provide the pet ID number, 11457860. The adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations and much more.

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Life COCKTAIL CHATTER

by Ed Sikov

Look, darling! A cocktail just for us!

The puppies were in residence that weekend, which meant the rest of us gorged on calorie-free eye candy, since the boys were untouchable. The best we could do was smell them.

Robbie had a distinct personal funk that shifted a little from day to day: top notes of salt water with middle notes of two rank men – Robbie and the previous night's trick. Kyle, on the other hand, always smelled faintly of Dr. Bronner's peppermint soap, which blended with his naturally sweet disposition to create aromatically the ideal playmate, soulmate, best friend, husband and ultimately survivor, weeping over the grave even as he inherits the fortune. I had a major crush on him.

CNN's prepster-geek reporter Jack Fogg showed up, too, along with his glorious boyfriend, Sammy. Dan came straight from the airport (conference in Cleveland) in a stressed, must-be-medicated state. And with the angel of cocktail creation smiling upon us, it was Craig's weekend as well.

If you found yourself in a Tarantino-designed slaughterhouse with a large enough beam balance, you could hang Craig on one hook and the rest of us on the opposite end, and Craig would still remain on the ground. Not really, but in the Pines, Craig felt like (and frankly looked like) a mastodon. But he adored the beach and loved our house, so he braved the stares

and not-even-stifled laughs of skinny, giggling twinkies who didn't have a quarter of Craig's wit. He dismissed them Bugs Bunny-style as "maroons."

We were all in the living room late on Saturday afternoon when Craig, as though by instinct, launched into one of his routines: a frightfully accurate imitation of a certain glamorous 1950s song belter. He ran through bits from "It's Always Fair Weather" and "Kismet," and even the song she sings (uncredited) in Bette Davis's "Mr. Skeffington." I was, as usual, enthralled and applauded at the end; Dan grinned with joy. Craig's Dolores Gray was phenomenal. He even claims to have coached Lypsinka.

Jack and Sammy were polite but clueless. Kyle said, with wide-eyed wonder, "Wow! You're really good! Who was that? She's amazing!"

At which point Robbie stood up, stretched dramatically to show off his chili-red treasure trail, and announced, "Why do bitter queens love clownish women from old movies nobody else cares about? I'm too young for this. I won't be back for dinner." And out the door he strolled.

"Asshole," said Kyle. Dan seethed. Jack and Sammy kept their mouths shut; they probably agreed with Robbie but were too polite to say it. I was offended across the board – for Craig, for old movies, for the late Dolores Gray – and was paralyzed

with outrage. "Robbie's hot," Sammy observed. Jack threw a pillow at him.

"Eureka!" Craig declared. "I have just invented a cocktail to celebrate the revelation that Robbie is an agent of Satan. I always thought there was something suspicious about that flaming red hair. Gents? Who would like a Bitter Queen?"

"What goes into a bitter queen?" Kyle asked innocently.

"Nothing! That's the problem!" Craig batted back.

Here's Craig's incredibly simple and quite delicious recipe. We collectively added the descriptive details during a slightly sodden dinner:

The Bitter Queen

Take last night's martini glass with the dregs still in it, and toss the dregs in the sink. Don't rinse out the glass. Add a bit too much Jameson Irish Whiskey and three or four dashes of Angostura Bitters. Plunk a single, pathetic ice cube into the glass. For the full effect, drink it alone.

Variation: "The Bitter Old Queen": use Jameson 12-year Special Reserve.

Ed Sikov is the author of "Dark Victory: The Life of Bette Davis" and other books about films and filmmakers.

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Remembering Dennis Ashby

This month, longtime Gold Coast employee Dennis Ashby, known to many as "Rita," passed away. The exact date and cause of death is unknown, but co-worker Eric Licht, who worked with Ashby for over 11 years at the Detroit club, told us: "Let's just say that his body and soul were 'out of alignment' and his heart just couldn't take it any longer."

Between The Lines interviewed Ashby, a Utica native, in mid-2008 about doing drag, making the best Long Island and his dedication to working in gay bars, which he did for over 40 years.

"I'll keep working as long as I possibly can," he told us. "It keeps me in touch with the community and keeps me in a younger frame of mind. After all, it beats being a greeter at Meijer."



1

1. Dennis Ashby at Gold Coast (Photo: Andrew Potter)

2. Dennis (center) with Gold Coast staff

3. Dennis and Nickki (Photos: Danielle)



2



3

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Solution to puzzle from page 30

M	A	G	I		H	A	T	C	H		S	M	E	E
G	L	E	N		A	L	O	H	A		P	O	L	L
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T	O	R	I		R	O	Y	A	L		L	A	R	D
E	R	I	N		M	E	E	S		D	R	E	A	
S	A	N	G		E	L	D	E	R		S	O	R	T

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Schumacher reteams with Cage and Kidman for 'Trespass'

Gay director Joel Schumacher didn't exactly set the world on fire with his rich-kids-on-drugs melodrama "Twelve" this year – even if it did get him his first invitation to Sundance. But the filmmaker is back on familiar ground in his next project, working with big stars on what sounds like a standard-issue thriller (hey, you're good at what you're good at). Nicolas Cage and Nicole Kidman are set to star in Schumacher's "Trespass" as a married couple who gets taken hostage and who discover that the situation reveals hidden cracks in their relationship. It's a reunion, of sorts; Schumacher previously directed Cage in "8MM" and Kidman in "Batman Forever." With shooting under way in Louisiana – the cast also features "Twilight" heartthrob Cam Gigandet, and breakout indie guy Ben Mendelsohn from "Animal Kingdom" – "Trespass" is set to break and enter into theaters next year.



Hilary Swank. Photo: Fox Searchlight

plays the inheritor of a spacious New York apartment who, by the terms of the will, has to lock himself in for 12 days. But is he alone in there? And does it really matter that it's a piece of primo Manhattan real estate if he has to share it with a demon or psychotic person? Also starring Jamie Harrold ("Erin Brockovich"), "Occupant" could move into theaters as early as this winter.

French titans Deneuve and Depardieu clash in Ozon's 'Potiche'

François Ozon is one of the most exciting younger directors working in France today. And while he is gay and not hesitant toward homo subject matter in movies like the twisted "Criminal Minds," the tragic "Time to Leave," or the lush mystery-musical "8 Women," he's an amazingly eclectic auteur. With "Potiche," which recently premiered at the Venice Film Festival, he makes his very first full-on comedy, and he does it with a cast of French screen legends. Catherine Deneuve stars as a bourgeois housewife who becomes a corporate executive, bringing her into farcical conflict with union organizer Gerard Depardieu. With supporting performances by Jérémie Renier ("Summer Hours") and the darkly handsome Sergi Lopez ("Pan's Labyrinth"), "Potiche" promises to be one

of 2011's most hotly anticipated imports.

Hilary Swank faces life after wartime

Hard-working lesbian producer Christine Vachon ("I'm Not There," "Boys Don't Cry") always keeps a full dance card, and it looks like one of the more notable projects coming from her is "Dreams of a Dying Heart," the directorial debut of writer Shawn Lawrence Otto ("House of Sand and Fog"). This suspenseful drama stars Hilary Swank as an Iraq war veteran who returns home to her husband (Josh Brolin) and daughter with her body in one piece but her mind shaken by the experience. Almost as soon as she arrives at the airport, she starts having visions of a ghostly boy in blue. Soon, she's waking up screaming and covered in blood, pictures of her are missing from the wall, and there's a strange Middle Eastern man in her house – who seems to have designs on her daughter. Sounds chilling – and Swank is always at her best in a short haircut. Shooting starts in October, with "Dreams" set to haunt the big screen in 2012.

Romeo San Vicente likes to think of himself as a one-man USO tour. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

Van Hansis vacates daytime for 'Occupant'

The recent cancellation of "As the World Turns" has meant the loss of one of daytime TV's most incident-prone gay characters, Luke Synder, played by actor Van Hansis. He survived "ex-gay" therapy, the loss of a boyfriend in a train accident, expulsion from school for trying to rig a student election and several dozen other moments of soapy intrigue, all the while becoming half of a supercouple with Noah Mayer (played by Jake Silbermann, part of the pair collectively known as "Nuke" by hardcore fans). But with "ATWT" just a memory, Hansis is moving on to other challenges, namely the starring role in a new indie film, "Occupant." He

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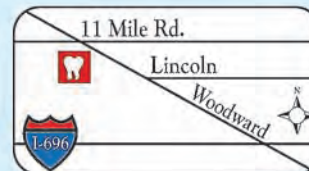
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